

VIA BRINDISI]

The London and China Telegraph

PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON ARRIVAL OF THE P. & O. MESSENGERIES AND PACIFIC MAILS FROM CHINA JAPAN STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, &c.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE "LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS." A WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR THE OUTWARD MAILS.

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LONDON, MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1877.

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Latest Advices.

Ports	OUTWARD.		HOMeward.
	From London.	Arrived out.	Received March 26.
JAPAN—Yokohama ...	Dec. 23	Feb. 8	Feb. 11*
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Hakodadi ...	—	—	Jan. 23
Nagasaki ...	—	—	" 30
CHINA—Peking ...	—	—	Feb. 1
Tien-tsin ...	—	—	" 4
Chefoo ...	—	—	" 3
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Hankow ...	—	—	Feb. 9
Kin-kiang ...	—	—	" 8
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Galle ...	—	—	Mar. 3
Colombo ...	—	—	" 1

* Via San Francisco

THE MAILS, &c.

The P. and O. mail, with the advices dated as above from China and the Straits Settlements, was delivered via Brindisi, this morning, its due date. The Japan advices per Occidental and Oriental Company's steamer *Gastie*, via San Francisco, reached London on the 19th inst. The next inward (French) mail, from Yokohama, 15th, Shanghai 16th, Hong Kong 22nd Feb., Singapore 1st March, which is due, via Marseilles, on Monday next, the 2nd proximo, left Suez on the 19th inst., four days early, and may be expected in London on Wednesday or Thursday.

Telegraphic messages from China and Japan continue to arrive in very good times by both Company's lines.

List of Passengers.

PASSENGERS INWARD.

By this mail to Brindisi, per P. and O. steamer *Ceylon*, arrived March 23.—From Yokohama: Rev. W. Denning. From Shanghai: Mr. W. Brugman. From Singapore: Mr. T. Forrest. From Penang: Mr. Kastermann. From Galle: Mr. J. Norman Macleod, Lieut. Massey, Mr. C. H. Cameron. To Venice, arrived 25.—From Hong Kong: Mr. and Mrs. Ken.

To Southampton, per P. and O. steamer *Deccan*, expected to arrive April 2.—From Shanghai: Mr. Lockhart. From Galle: Miss Neville. To Malta, from Yokohama: Mr. Hunter.

PASSENGERS OUTWARD.

Per P. and O. steamer *Ka-dise*, from Southampton, March 23.—To Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. Drummond. To Hong Kong: Mr. C. T. Melhuish and one second-class passenger.

Per P. and O. steamer *Ceylon*, from Venice, March 30.—To Hong Kong: Mr. C. Havillan.

Per P. and O. steamer *Ceylon*, from Brindisi, April 2.—To Hong Kong: Mr. W. P. Galton.

Per P. and O. steamer *Bokhara*, from Southampton, April 5.—To Hong Kong: Fleet Surg. Drew.

Per P. and O. steamer *Asoca*, from Venice, April 13.—To Hong Kong: Mr. A. S. Garfett. To Singapore: Mr. Munn.

Per P. and O. steamer *Asoca*, from Brindisi, April 16.—To Singapore: Mr. S. Bright. To Ceylon: Mr. C. M. Hadow, Hon. L. B. Clarence.

Per P. and O. steamer *Hydaspes*, from Southampton, April 19.—To Yokohama: Mr. and Mrs. Midway Dare. To Hong Kong: Mr. T. W. Snell.

Per French steamer *Meikong*, from Marseilles, March 25.—To Yokohama: Mr. Galepin. To Shanghai: Mr. Brunat, Mr. Lacroix Cousins, Mr. David Brand, Mr. and Mrs. Bluetichli, Mr. and Mrs. Ristelhuber, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. King, Mr. S. Marsh. To Hong Kong: Mr. and Mrs. Hickling, Mr. Garre's, Mr. J. G. Gilina, Mr. C. G. Tatham, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Orishans, Mr. V. Deschamps, Mrs. Simon. To Batavia: Mr. and Mrs. Bauer and children, Mr. Gro camp, Mr. E. Buss. To Singapore: Mr. F. Southy, Mr. Leichman. To Colombo: Mr. F. C. Fowles, Mr. W. A. Main. To Galle: Mr. Black.

Per French steamer *As*, from Marseilles, April 8.—To Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. Arctz, Mr. Milford, Mr. H. M. M. Gray, Mr. E. Osenbruggen, Mr. Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Russell. To Hong Kong: Mr. A. Bows, Mr. C. Sinclair, Mr. R. M. Gray, Mr. F. Koch. To Batavia: Mr. Schas, Mr. Pels. To Singapore: Mr. A. J. Gunn and family. To Colombo: Captain and Mrs. Wilmot, Mr. W. Bosanquet.

Per French steamer *Amazon*, from Marseilles, April 22.—To Batavia: Mr. and Mrs. Kruseman. To Colombo: Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Robertson, Mr. F. J. W. Gordon. Per French steamer *Hongk'y*, from Marseilles, May 6.—To Yokohama: Mr. Pa-lanche, Mr. Balitte, Mr. Eulpin, Mr. Osoof. To Singapore: Mr. and Mrs. W. Mulholland and two children.

To Batavia, per steamer *Koning der Nederlanden*, from Nieuwediep, March 17.—Mr. and Mrs. Van de Straeten and two children, Mr. and Mrs. W. Duppen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hoem, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Looman and three children, Mr. and Mrs. O. Grothe and three children, Mr. and Mrs. W. Voorburg, Mr. J. W. Harmsen, Mrs. H. C. Harmsen, Mr. J. J. H. de Bruyn, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. B. Bouricous and five children, Mrs. Bouricous, Mr. R. P. Mees, Mr. and Mrs. P. L. J. Van Puxteren and two children, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Duppen, Mr. and Mrs. A. Gerlach, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Vermaassen and three children, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. J. van der Stokker, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. de Gelder and five children, Mrs. A. A. Becker and three children, Mr. W. T. Tolosa, Mr. H. J. Kraft, Mr. J. P. F. J. Bronckgeest, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. H. d'Arnaud Gerkens, Mr. F. Hommes, Mr. H. W. H. Waardenburg, Mr. H. Krause, Mr. W. Van Merkesteyn, Mr. J. H. Van de Linde, Mr. G. Jaarsma, Mr. H. F. Fock, Mr. J. H. ten Kate, Mr. H. Hooe, Mr. Van de Voort in de Betouw, Mr. J. H. van der Boels, Mr. and Mrs. C. Bizeleer and two children, Mr. and Mrs. J. Van Roy, Jaur, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Brookman and child, Mr. C. A. Phaff, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Seybel and four children, Mr. H. Moen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Amiel and three children, Mr. K. Bos, Mr. J. Van Halteren, Mr. Bourdel, Mr. and Mrs. Nederlof and child.

To Batavia, per steamer *Madara*, from Southampton, March 21.—Mr. J. G. Van Thiel, Mr. and Mrs. Th. K. Van Slingerland and daughter, Mrs. C. P. Gersen, Mr. and Mrs. L. Monod de Froloville and child, Mr. C. Th. Hoevenaar, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Brandes, Mr. J. H. de Bruyn, Mr. and Mrs. P. Z. Bergh, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Keizer and child, Mr. G. W. W. C. Baron van Hoevell, Mr. W. J. Van Santen, Mr. C. M. Krul, Mr. W. G. Branings, Mr. G. Belle, Mr. J. Adir, Mr. L. Bul.

Per steamer *Aar* (Holt's line), from Liverpool, March 22.—To Shanghai: Mr. Melly, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Burt and child, Mrs. Roberts and family.

Summary of News from the Far East.

From China the present mail again brings a variety of details connected with the opening of the new ports under the Chefoo Convention, affairs with regard to that matter appearing to proceed much more rapidly there than at home, where it is still doubtful whether the Convention will come into force at all. According to a letter from Hankow to the *North China Daily News*, Messrs. Baber and Gill were likely to set out on their eastward journey about the 8th February. Mr. W. King, of H.M. Consular Service, had also arrived at Hankow, and was about to start in the *Kestrel* for Ichang, to take a preliminary official survey. Mr. Dick, who is understood to be appointed commissioner at Ichang, is also in Hankow, on his way to the new port. It seems to be assumed out in China that the Convention is as good as ratified, at least so far as the opening of new ports is concerned. The relief of the refugees from the famine in the north is still one of the chief subjects of attention on the part of the native officials, one of whom has published regulations providing that if there are any starving people desirous of selling their wives and children to buy food, proclamations must at once be issued, forbidding any purchaser to purchase them. The notification is painfully indicative of the state of misery into which large numbers have been plunged. From Hong Kong the most interesting item of news is the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, at which a number of matters of considerable importance were discussed. Some sensation has been caused by the fact that the absconding Government employes, Webster and Rowe, were in charge of the gunpow-

der in the colony. Sir Arthur Kennedy had intended to go to Australia by the steamer *Singapore*, which was wrecked, and is congratulated upon having delayed his departure.

From Japan a curious and interesting piece of intelligence, somewhat suggestive of the blind leading the blind, is brought by the present mail. Japan is to make a loan to China, not however in money, but in rice, copper-cash, and other goods. Altogether the transaction seems to be one of the most extraordinary that has ever been recorded. It would be interesting even to the "floaters" of loans in the European money markets, as a financial novelty, and it is to be hoped, if we may put the thing in a commercial form, that the business which has now been opened between the two Governments will prove profitable and mutually satisfactory. The Kioto-Osaka Railway has been opened by the Mikado, the ceremony as described by the local journals being of a very imposing character. The rumours of difficulties among the Kogosima Ken were on the increase; but nothing very definite seemed to be known on the subject, which appeared to be involved in the obscurity that generally attaches to native affairs both in Japan and China. Mr. Consul Russell Robertson has obtained leave of absence. It was expected that the Empress of Japan would shortly make, for the first time, a journey by sea—an event which was looked upon with some interest.

JAPAN.

YOKOHAMA.

The present P. and O. mail brings advices from this port to the 6th Feb., and we have advices by the Occidental and Oriental Company's steamer *Gaelic*, via San Francisco, five days later, viz., to the 11th Feb. The P. and O. mail from London, Dec. 8, arrived out on the 28th Jan., the following French mail of Dec. 15 on the 2nd Feb., and the P. and O. mail of Dec. 22 on the 8th Feb.

An unexpected announcement is made in the local papers. For some time a rumour had been abroad that Japan was about to grant a loan to China. As was natural, not very much attention was given to the statement, but according to the *Japan Herald* the report has been revived, with a circumstantiality that leaves no doubt about the affair being in course of negotiation. The amount of the loan is variously stated; it is to be given partly in rice, partly in copper, and partly in iron, brass, and copper cash that are now being withdrawn from circulation in Japan, while they are yet current in China. The price of rice has gone up in consequence of this loan operation. China, it appears, is to give bonds, but for how much, how long current, and at what rate of interest has not yet been made public.

The Mikado left on the 24th January for Kioto by sea, and was followed on the 1st Feb. by most of the Foreign Ministers, who went in a steamer placed at their disposal by the Government to witness the ceremony of opening the Kioto Osaka railway, which took place successfully on the 5th February. The *Herald* gives an excellent account of the ceremony, from which we extract the following:—

As soon as his Majesty descended from his carriage he was received by Enouye, the Chief Commissioner of Railways, and the foreign and native Ministers, and was then conducted along a pathway, bordered with flowers, followed by the Ministers, &c., to the State carriage, in which he took his seat, accompanied by the high Japanese officials, whilst the Diplomatic corps took their places in the two carriages before and behind the Imperial one, and the remaining members of the procession filled the others without much distinction of persons. As soon as all were comfortably seated, the signal for starting was given, and amidst the crash of the band, the presenting of arms by the troops, and a salute of 101 guns fired by a battery stationed there, the train moved slowly out of the terminus, at 9.30 A.M. The engine, which was gaily decorated with flowers and flags, was driven by Mr. Smith, the locomotive superintendent, whilst Mr. Page, the traffic manager, under whose charge were the traffic arrangements of the day, also took post thereon. All down the line preparations had been made by the people to greet the Emperor. The railroad officials had outdone themselves. Every little crossing had its archway of flowers and evergreens surmounted by two national flags, while at the larger stations the decorations were extremely good, and the platforms on each side were crowded with officials and the school children of the neighbourhood, in holiday attire, who, ranged in serried lines, bowed as the train swept swiftly past.

If Kobe could not rival the Kioto terminus in the beauty of its hangings, it enjoys an advantage which the other does not. In Kioto the main entrance opens directly on to the street, but at Kobe a considerable extent of ground intervenes between the buildings and the roadway. This the Kobe officials had taken advantage of, and it was in this piece of ground that the cere-

mony took place. To this place the Mikado was conducted, whilst bands played and the men-of-war in harbour thundered forth a Royal salute. As his Majesty appeared on the platform the assembled Europeans burst out in a hearty cheer, which was graciously acknowledged by the Mikado, and at which he seemed gratified. As soon as his Majesty had taken his place on the dais, Sir Harry Parkes stepped forward and, as *doyen* of the Diplomatic corps, read an address to the Mikado, to which he returned a few short words of reply. After this some presentations took place. Sir Harry presented Mr. Annesley, the English Consul at Hiogo, Mr. Brassey, M.P. (who wore the uniform of a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve), Mr. Frere, and the Hon. J. Bingham. Captain Marvin, U.S.N., and Mr. Vreeland, U.S.N., of the U.S. *Alert*, were presented by the Minister of the United States; and Admiral Veron, Captain Cailliet, Captain Rieuvier, and several officers of the Admiral's staff by the French Chargé d'Affaires. These comprised the foreign presentations, and the Governor of Hiogo then proceeded to read the address from the people of the ken, to which a few words were returned by the Mikado. This concluded the more formal business, and the Emperor was conducted to the general offices, which had been specially fitted up for the occasion, and where an elegant luncheon had been prepared.

The threatening rumours regarding the action of the Kogosima ken continued, and were becoming more menacing. The risings among the farmers had, however, entirely subsided.

The Minister of Finance has published his estimates of the Imperial revenue expenditure for the period 1st July, 1876, till 30th June, 1877, showing a surplus of yen 1,796,000, but there is a reserve fund for contingencies of yen 1,330,000, and a loan fund of half a million. The revenue itself is estimated at five and a half millions of yen less than last year, principally on account of the reduction in the land tax, which for the six months, January till June, 1877, is calculated to entail a loss for the treasury of five millions.

The *Herald* gives the subjoined items of general news:—

It is reported that two architects have been engaged in England to teach their profession to students of the Kogakurio, and that the Preparatory School in connection with that establishment is shortly to be abolished, because the Minister of Public Works wishes the elementary education of youth to be confined to the Educational Department.

A novel method of advertising has been adopted by the *Nichi Nichi Shinbun*, situated at Ginza, Tokio, for every evening after dark there is a gas illumination in front of the building representing the name of the house (*Nippo*) in two Chinese seal characters, in a circular border; the effect is very pretty, and it attracts large crowds every night.

The Mikado, it is expected, will return from Kioto early in March, and it is thought by some people that the Empress will accompany him in the same ship, in which case Her Majesty would make her first sea voyage, and show an example to her countrywomen, whose horror of sea sickness is such that they can scarcely be persuaded to make a sea voyage, even when one would be materially advantageous to them.

Mr. Consul Russell Robertson has obtained leave of absence; his place will be temporarily filled by H.M.'s Acting Vice-Consul at Yedo, Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, while the duties of that Vice-Consulate will be discharged by Mr. W. G. Aston, Japanese Secretary to H.M.'s Legation.

Tokio has been visited by a series of fires. On the 1st Feb. the *Gaimusho* (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) was burnt down, and up till the evening of the 2nd seven more fires had happened.

The Tokio fu has brought an action for recovery of ground-rent against a British Tsukidji resident, who has refused to pay on the identical plea advanced by Captain Batchelder when he was sued. The action is still pending.

The volcano on Vries Island is in a state of eruption.

The agents of the different fire insurance companies established in Yokohama have held a meeting to concert measures for lessening the risks incurred by insuring buildings of faulty construction.

An American citizen, a naturalised Englishman, a Dane, and a Swede have been imprisoned upon a charge of making counterfeit Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank \$500 notes, and trying to pass the same.

The uncertainty with regard to the state of affairs in Eastern Europe has had a very depressing influence on our export market. Our import market has also been very dull, as customary, however, at this time of the year, when the China New Year's holidays are close at hand.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

YOKOHAMA, FEB. 10.

Not a stick of the Foreign-office is left standing. In one hour on the 1st February, afternoon, the magnificent Chikuzen Yasiki, formerly the abode of Kuroda, was burnt to the ground. The Foreign Affairs Department acquired the compound and buildings and established their offices and their right years ago. A few weeks since some alterations were made in a part of the building intended for a Conference Hall. The new rooms were fitted with European furniture, and, alas, foreign grates and chimneys; and in one of the latter a beam was left, which ignited;

thence the flames spread to the building, which it was found impossible to save. Owing, however, to the fact of the fire taking place in the day time, and the willing promptness of the officials and firemen, all the archives and documents and much of the furniture were preserved.

More changes in the very limited journalistic world here. Mr. C. D. Moss, for four years one of the managing proprietors of the *Japan Gazette*, has gone out of the business.

The Silk market has experienced another fall, of about \$100 per bale. I almost fell inclined to envy the silk men the pleasant state of excitement in which they must live. I wonder if they might not almost as well be "putting" at the now, alas! no more, tables of Hombourg or Baden Baden. If this oscillating state of things continues the history of some of the speculators will be as eventful as that of Garcia of famous *trente et quarante* memory.

OSAKA AND HIOGO.

The *Hiogo News* says:—His Excellency the Minister of Public Works and Chief Commissioner of Railways gave a railway banquet at the Shinseifu, Osaka, on the 5th inst., at which the members of the foreign and native staff, and the representatives of the foreign and native press, who had participated in the opening ceremony were present. The above paper states that a serious accident happened on board the French ironclad *Atalante*, during the firing of a salute on the railway opening ceremony. One man had both arms blown off, and another lost his thumb.

The *Hiogo News* publishes the following address, delivered by Mr. Nathan J. Newwitter, United States Consul for these ports, and President of the Hiogo Municipal Council, to his Majesty the Mikado:—

"The pleasant and honoured duty of welcoming your Majesty to this section of your Empire, and to greet your Majesty in behalf of the Hiogo Municipality and its residents, representing all nations, has devolved upon me. In offering your Majesty sincere congratulations on your safe arrival from the pleasant visit and sojourn at the Western capital, the historical cities and beautiful homes of your brave, honoured, and heroic ancestors, I but interpret the feelings of the foreign community of Hiogo when, in their name, I tender you a cordial welcome.

"I have reason to know that your Majesty's visit to Kioto, Osaka, Nara and Hiogo, and the days you have sojourned in the midst of your people, has added joy and inspired your people with patriotic impulses, and the demonstrations with which you have been received is but a proof of a people's love, fidelity and loyalty. The history of all ages has from time to time recorded the glory of their Rulers, but none will appear brighter on the pages of the world's history than that of your Majesty's Empire, powerful and majestic now as well as centuries ago, and progressive to a degree which must redound in continued national honour and glory. It is a source of pleasure to those who from foreign shores have made your Majesty's land their home, who have watched the prosperity of your people and that progress and glory amongst the nations of the world which your Majesty's Government has achieved in so brief a time, aided by your Majesty's personal efforts to promote the welfare of your people. Wishing your Majesty continued good health, and that your Majesty's reign may be happy and long continued, as well as marked by constant advancement in everything that will benefit your land and people, that peace and plenty essential to greatness and glory may ever surround your Majesty's Government and people."

CHINA.

PEKING.

The *Gazette* of the 7th January contains a memorial from the Taotai of Chefoo, in which an effect of the stipulations of the Chefoo Convention, that greater courtesy shall be observed in official intercourse, is observable. The memorial relates the arrival of certain shipwrecked Liu-chiu seamen, who had been saved by a British ship and handed over to the Taotai by the British Consul. And it is satisfactory to note that the text, as printed in the *Gazette*, elevates the characters "Ying Kwoh" (British) in the manner required by due (Chinese) official courtesy.

Li Han-chang's narrative in the *Peking Gazette* on the 8th January, of his experiences on his way to take up the Governor Generalship of Szechuen, reads like an extract from a book of travels. He had to leave the river at Ichang, because the current was too strong in the gorges; the post-road was under water; so he had to take to the mountains, and these were deep in snow. When eventually he did reach Ch'eng-tu, he learned that his journey had been useless, as he had been appointed instead to the Viceroyalty of Hukwang, which he seems to think a decided improvement; though he would probably have preferred escaping the double journey. Altogether, this Mandarin has not been idle of late. From Nanking to Momein and back; and from Nanking to Ch'eng-tu during the winter and back immediately to Hankow, is a very fair amount of journeying for eighteen months—as travel goes in China.

TIENTSIN.

The North China *Daily News* correspondent writes that he hears from Laoling, in Shantung that corn cobs are being ground up and mixed with bran and other things as an article of food. There is nothing new concerning the refugees. Mr. Yun, who put alum into the gruel at the soup kitchens some time since, after being taken out of the prison, and placed in the keeping of the lictors, has again been remanded to prison, to await the Viceroy's judgment. An appeal to the Taotai by the Fire Companies, made a few days ago, was of no avail.

It is stated that gas is to be introduced into the Tientsin native city by H.E. Li.

The benefit given for the friends of the poor sailor who was drowned realised about \$100—a small enough sum certainly for the old people bereaved of a son, and left without regular support.

A considerable depression in silver has taken place of late, attributable, it is said, to the small amount of *cash* in the market, consequent on the falling off of business caused by the famine. The tael has not been so low before for a number of years.

SHANGHAI.

The present mail brings advices from this port to the 9th Feb.; the P. and O. mail from London Dec. 22 was received on the 5th Feb.

The Chinese regulations with reference to *lekin* still form the chief subject of public attention. The North China *Daily News* translates from the *Sin-pao* a note issued by the Tsung-li Yamen, informing the Inspector-General of Customs of the arrangement for the exemption of foreign goods from *lekin* within the foreign Settlements; and that drawback certificates may in future be cashed at the option of the holder, and observes that the simplicity of the Yamen language contrasts with the elaborate regulations for throttling trade which the Taotai has submitted for the approval of the Foreign Consuls. It is understood that it is likely the Chamber of Commerce will protest officially against these rules as tending to hamper and interfere with trade; and no doubt is entertained that they will be greatly simplified before they are put into execution. As a matter of fact, all the proposed stamping and marking are quite superfluous. Foreign goods are exempt from *lekin* within the Foreign Settlements, because they are foreign goods; and they are entitled to a transit pass when they go up country for the same reason—irrespective of any Customs mark. The Chinese in the Settlements were preparing for the New Year's holidays, and announcements have appeared of the intended closure of the public offices, banks, &c., during periods varying from three days to five. The Custom-house was to be closed and the shipment and delivery of cargo suspended on the 12th, 13th and 14th, and general business would not be transacted on the three following days. An amateur theatrical performance, in which ladies took part, has been given at the Lyceum Theatre; and is spoken of as a complete success. The proceeds were devoted in part to the Shanghai General Hospital and in part to the funds of the Amateur Dramatic Corps.

Another illustration of the cleverness with which the Chinese seize every opportunity which is presented of turning an honest penny, notwithstanding all that is said of their want of progressiveness, has been given in Shanghai, where some native speculators have started an omnibus for the accommodation of Chinese passengers, to run to and fro between the Shanghai Railway Station and the Little East Gate, the fare charged being 100 cash each way. It is already running; on the Honan-road route, and appears to be well patronised, and the vehicle is nearly an exact copy of the railway carriages now in use. The interior is comfortably fitted up, and is provided with reflector lamps, a clock, and other conveniences. The omnibus is drawn by two ponies, and the driver and conductor are attired in a livery evidently a close copy of that worn by the railway officials, altogether presenting a neat and cleanly turn-out. If the adventure be successful, it is stated to be intended to build a number of similar vehicles, to ply on different routes.

The *Sin-pao* (says the *North China Herald*) publishes some rules promulgated by Tseng Kwo-fan to prevent corrupt practices by yamen runners, which afford one more instance of the excellent theories of Chinese Government; but only to show again how wretchedly it fails in practice. The yamen runners, it is acknowledged, are guilty of many corrupt practices, "such as capturing a defendant and keeping him in prison without the knowledge of the mandarin; detaining a defendant in custody after he has been dismissed by the authorities, with a view to extorting a bribe; or conspiring with the plaintiff to kidnap the defendant, and present a petition against him." And to prevent all this—the dates and reasons of arrests and releases are required to be written on boards, to be hung outside the Magistrate's yamen.

We take the following from the *Celestial Empire*:—The brutal cruelties that were, and still continue to be inflicted by the local authorities upon the poor wretch who acted as middleman in the sale of land for the Woosung Railway, have been paralleled by tortures to which an unfortunate scholar—a bachelor of arts—has been subjected by the provincial authorities at Soochow. The

unhappy offender in this case had acted in the capacity of middleman for an American mission at that city in leasing land, for which he was first deprived of his rank that he might be legally flogged. He was repeatedly and cruelly beaten, and imprisoned some fourteen months ago, and still suffers incarceration. His maintenance in prison, and the squeezes to which he has been subjected, have beggared him. Recently he lost, first, his aged father, and next, his only son, by death, and although ten highly respectable men petitioned for leave for him to perform one of the funeral rites, rendering themselves responsible for his safe return, that favour was refused. The effect of such transactions by mandarins on the people is obvious, and it is useless for the authorities to affect surprise when acts of violence on the part of the populace towards foreigners occur. The people know very well that the mandarins sympathise with them in their feeling of hostility towards us. It may be questioned if ever a riot has occurred in China that was not instigated by men in authority. When we recall to mind the proclamation which Viceroy Shen Pao-chen issued on his accession to office at Nanking, a document which was charged with expressions of goodwill towards foreigners, and which enjoined officers and people to abstain from unfriendly acts towards men from afar, we are surprised that acts like these should take place under his jurisdiction. It is still more matter of surprise if it is true, as we are assured is the case, that six months ago his Excellency was remonstrated with by the Shanghai American Consular authority, and that the despatch had been treated with contemptuous silence. We were not before aware that the officials of any foreign Power were so largely endowed with the quality of meekness which has been thus exhibited. However little commiseration may be felt for the literary graduate Dzen Pin-fu, or however indifferently the mission may be regarded, we should imagine that *amour propre* would disallow such viceregal snubbing. We shall be glad to be corrected if we have been misinformed on this point. It is a subject which we shall not lose sight of.

There is a report that a well-known Chinese banker in Shanghai is attempting to negotiate a loan of five million taels with one of the foreign banks, the object in view being the defrayment of expenses incident to the campaign in Kansuh and the outlying provinces. Money is urgently required; and this bears out the rumour which reached us a short time ago from Peking, that extensive operations are being contemplated as soon as the frost breaks up.

We call the attention of our readers to some articles which have appeared in the *Shen-pao* (of the 1st and 3rd inst.) with regard to Chinese combinations at auctions. The Chinese, as everybody is doubtless well aware, often take advantage of their being the only attendants at auctions of piece goods and damaged merchandise, by settling beforehand the price they wish to give; and then, when they have succeeded in purchasing at their own figure, they put up the goods again, and divide the profit between all the members of the syndicate. Complaints which have lately reached the Chinese through the German Consul have induced the Taotai to interfere, and the *Shen-pao* of this week contains a proclamation from Ch'en Fu-ch'ing (of the Mixed Court) condemning all such combinations as illegal.

NINGPO.

The little community at this port keeps up its reputation as one of the most active in China, in the pursuit of information concerning the natives, and in literary pursuits generally. The "Winter Evening Lectures" are going on with success. On Friday evening, Feb. 2, the Rev. Frederick Galpin lectured, taking for his subject, "Chinese Wit and Humour." The lecturer exhibited and explained a number of those ingenious acrostics, anagrams, charades, &c., of which Chinese literary men are so fond; and kept the audience in high good humour by relating a variety of comical anecdotes and whimsical stories illustrative of Chinese facetiousness in general. Mr. W. M. Cooper, H.B.M.'s Consul, in proposing a vote of thanks, congratulated the lecturer on having acquired so surprising a fund of entertaining matter respecting the humorous side of the Chinese character.

FOOCHOW.

The *Foochow Herald* of January 25 states that it is rumoured Ting Futai proposes to erect a telegraph line in Formosa, between the principal coast towns of the island. It is also stated that Mr. Tuck Suey has been entrusted by the Provincial Treasurer with the delicate task of raising about Tls. 2,000,000 on loan. It is reported that the new Chinese gunboats *Alpha* and *Beta* are shortly to be transferred to Tientsin. At present they are kept in excellent order at Pagoda Anchorage by a select crew—decks washed regularly, brass work cleaned thoroughly, and guns polished until they resemble mirrors. But as for roughly handling the twenty-six ton guns—never! The Celestials are, it is whispered, afraid of them. In fact the entire business of supplying the Chinese with ships and weapons is a sham, in which we believe that the poor mandarins are the scapegoats. Children must learn to walk before they can run. Talk about peaceably expelling foreigners!—the latter find it too good a trade, and

therefore will not retire so long as China shows herself such an exceptionally good customer.

The value of the telegraph as a means of detecting crime has been fairly demonstrated within the limits of this port. A Chinaman bought from a foreign hong about \$3,000 worth of opium, for which he tendered a certain number of native bank notes which on presentation for payment were declared to be forgeries. Meantime, an order had been issued to deliver the drug at Pagoda Anchorage, and though the would-be purchaser made every effort to obtain it, he was too late—thanks to the telegraph—by about one minute.

We hear that the Mamoi Arsenal authorities have been compelled to partially suspend operations through lack of funds.

HONG KONG.

Dates by this mail extend to the 15th Feb.; the French mail from London Dec. 29 arrived out on the 9th Feb., and the following P. and O. mail of Jan. 5 was received on the 13th Feb.

The yearly general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce took place on the 12th February, when several matters of importance were discussed. Among them were the Blockade question, the opening of new ports under the Chefoo Conventions, the Sooloo question, postal rates, &c. More than usual spirit appears to have been infused into the discussion, especially with reference to the Blockade question, a protest being made against Sir Brooke Robertson being appointed a member of the Commission to report upon the subject. The Chairman in his speech stated that it appeared that the Hoppo of Canton levied on all goods coming to the Colony an export duty according to the native tariff, and also an export duty according to the foreign tariff.

The sudden disappearance of Mr. R. P. Webster and Mr. C. Rowe, in the employ of the Local Government, seems, as the details have become known, to have caused considerable sensation in the colony. The two gentlemen, who so rapidly decamped to happier climes, were employed in connection with the public store of gunpowder, and the *China Mail* gives the following somewhat startling account of the affair:—

It would seem that Hong Kong has had a sort of gunpowder plot all to itself during the last few months. The object of the plotters, however, is said to have been entirely different to that of the memorable scheme of the 5th of November, 1605. As the information in our possession is somewhat meagre, owing to the fact that steps are now being taken to follow up the track of certain runaways, we cannot vouch for the absolute accuracy of the statements here made. It seems, at all events, that the system under which gunpowder stores in Hong Kong have been regulated of late must be open to serious objection. Mr. R. P. Webster, formerly in charge of the Powder Hulk in Yau-mah-tee Bay, disappeared some time since without sending in his resignation; Mr. C. Rowe, one of the cargo-boat inspectors, temporarily employed at the Powder Depot, absconded not long since under similarly cloudy circumstances; and Mr. T. Coales, assistant foreman of the Ordnance Store Department, having taken a hasty departure for Shanghai, was brought back and charged before the magistrate a short time ago for desertion, under the terms of the new Mutiny Act. These incidents considered together would seem to imply that our stock of gunpowder has not for some time back been in the safest hands; but as yet, we repeat, there is nothing definite to communicate on this subject beyond the rumour that a large amount of public powder appears to be unaccounted for. Some persons who think they know say that the quantity missing is much larger than would be credited. Now, we do not know whether this alleged embezzlement of stores has been practised upon powder belonging specially to the naval, the military, or the colonial authorities—i.e., whether the explosive was handled on shore or afloat; but what appears to be a generally received probability is that gunpowder must have been pretty freely and stealthily handled to enable the thieves to get clear of so large a stock. The dangers which the working of such a loosely-hanging system—of which inadequate regulations the rascally manipulators appear to have taken full advantage—must have imposed upon this Colony are so uncomfortably huge that we prefer to pass on to congratulation at our escape.

Referring to the loss of the steamer *Singapore*, Captain Peake, belonging to the Eastern Australian Mail Steam Company, on a sunken reef off one of the islands in the Cumberland group, which was briefly reported by last mail, the above named paper adds the following particulars:—We find that the group of islands named is scattered around in the vicinity of lat. 20°40' S., long. 149°20' E., off the Queensland Coast, opposite Repulse Bay, and between Port Denison (on the north) and Port Bowen (on the south). As the unfortunate steamer left Hong Kong on the 15th ult., via Singapore, she must have been on her downward trip; and it will be matter for congratulation that the intention at one time entertained was abandoned by Sir Arthur Kennedy of taking passage by this vessel. The mishap, coming as it does so soon after the catastrophe in which the *Queensland* was wrecked, will be a serious blow to the Company; but this popular service has been well appreciated, and it is to be hoped that the energetic conductors of the new line will successfully maintain the regularity of their communication in spite of those

serious difficulties. The passenger list of the *Singapore* from this port was—Mr. Ronald McDonald for Sydney, and 453 Chinese for Cooktown. Of course the *Singapore* list would have to be added to this.

The half-yearly report of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to be presented to the meeting on the 15th February, and of which particulars have already been given by telegram, is published.

The report of the China Fire Insurance Company, to be presented on the 16th February, gives a statement of the Company's accounts made up to the 31st December, 1876.

The Net Profit for the year 1875 is shown to be as follows:—

Balance at credit of working account as per last report	...	...	...	\$79,371.79
Deduct losses and claims paid in 1876	...	...	...	11,662.52

Net Profit \$67,709.27

Of this amount the directors propose to apply \$22,394.77 to the payment of a bonus of 20 per cent. to the contributing shareholders of 1875, and add the balance to the Reserve Fund, which will thus be increased to \$339,787.30.

The half-yearly report of the directors of the Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock has been published. The gross earnings for the six months amount to \$139,849.06, and the net profits to \$14,961.18, which with \$15,533.28, the balance from last account, represents \$30,494.46. It is proposed that no dividend be declared, but that \$15,000 be paid in reduction of the loan from the Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company, and the balance carried to new account. The report notes the sale of the Whampoa property to the Chinese Government for \$80,000.

The annual report of the Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company has been issued, and shows a net profit for 1875, of \$190,000, and for 1876 a balance of \$244,445 at credit of working account. The profit for 1875, is divided as follows—30 per cent. to reserve, 20 per cent. bonus, to contributing shareholders, and 50 per cent. dividend to general shareholders. The reserve fund is increased to \$564,202.

From the *China Mail* we take the following items of general news:—The annual meeting of the members and seaholders of Union Church was held on the evening of the 9th February, Rev. James Lamont in the chair. The Report of the Committee and the Treasurer's accounts were read, accepted and ordered to be printed. Messrs. A. Falconer, Noble and Dickie were elected members of Committee of Management for the year; and Messrs. D. R. Crawford and J. Fairbairn were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The following account, duly certified, of the average amount of bank-notes in circulation in Hong Kong during the month ending Jan. 31 is published in the *Gazette*:—

BANKS.	Average Amount.
Oriental Bank Corporation	... .. \$231,256
Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, China and Hong Kong	... .. 605,094
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China	... .. 430,134
Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	... .. 1,208,817
Total	... .. \$2,475,301

We have received, and will notice at greater length, later on, the first part of Dr. Eitel's "Chinese Dictionary in the Cantonese Dialect." The Rev. Doctor says in the Preface to the work that "The basis of this Dictionary, for the written language, is the Imperial Dictionary of Kanghi combined with the vocabularies appended to the several volumes of Dr. Legge's edition of the Chinese Classics, and for the spoken language Dr. S. Wells Williams's Tonic Dictionary of the Chinese language in the Canton Dialect." As the author says, he "has prepared what will be found to be an essentially new Dictionary on the basis of the works published by Kanghi, Dr. Legge, and Dr. Williams." The author hopes it will be found to be practically useful; and we are sure that it will.

By the steamer *Conquest*, which arrived a few days ago, we learn that the French gunboat *Aspic* was lost, about the 14th January, on the coast to the Southward of Haiphong. No lives were lost.

The local *Government Gazette* has the following appointments by H.E. the Governor:—Thomas Middleton Leatherburrow (provisionally) to be in charge of the Gunpowder Depot, and Jose L. de Sa to be Acting Assistant Inspector of Junks, vice Webster and Rowe, dismissed as absent without leave. Hon. George Phillip, Attorney-General, to be a Trustee of St. John's Cathedral. It is stated that Mr. Plunkett has declined the post of Registrar of the Supreme Court, and that Mr. Hufham, the present Deputy Registrar will be appointed to it.

It is stated that Mr. Consul Davenport will shortly proceed to Wenchow, to complete arrangements for opening that port to trade.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

MANILA.

The Sooloo correspondent of the *Diario de Manila* states that the Moros made a night attack on a Government cattle pen at the new settlement there, but were beaten off by the troops, leaving one of their number dead, and carrying off many

wounded, to judge from the pools of blood found. Several head of cattle were killed and two Spaniards wounded. On the following morning the dead Moro was picked up and hung on a tree as a terror to others, after his arms, consisting of a kris, shield, and spear had been taken possession of. The building operations going on in the settlement were much impeded by rain and want of workmen and materials. The streets marked out have been lighted and named. On the 1st January last Colonel Paulin assumed the Governorship of Sooloo. Since the correspondent's previous letter, four Moros, three Moro women and one Chinaman had surrendered and submitted to the Spaniards. The following is a translation of a portion of the correspondent's letter:—

The soil of Sooloo cannot be better than it is for any kind of agricultural enterprise; the sweet potato, the staple food of the natives, yields here astonishingly heavy crops. The coffee produced is excellent, and may, perhaps, vie with the famed sorts from Silam and Pollok. On this island the sugar-cane contains such an abundance of juice, and grows so well, that it may become one of the articles of export with the best results. Grain is obtainable in surprising abundance; it is sufficient to say that maize gives four crops a year, which happens nowhere else. It is the same with fruits. The mangosteen, the mango, the orange, and the lime are delicious, and the first-named may be exported according to the quantity produced, because it grows nowhere else in the Philippine Archipelago than here. All this productiveness is due to the excellent and unimprovable nature of the soil, which abounds much in the vegetable earth styled humus; besides this, the soil may be cultivated with great ease, and at little expense.

BORNEO.

SARAWAK.

From the *Sarawak Gazette* of the 15th Feb. we learn that an expedition by the Dutch Resident of Pontianak against the Dyaks of Upper Kapuas has been completely successful, and all the inland villages which supplied head-taking parties were destroyed.

The *Gazette* publishes reports from the Residents of Rejang, Muka, and of Batang Lupar and Sarabas, but they contain nothing of any particular interest. Small-pox was disappearing throughout the principality. Favourable reports continue to be received of the new Gambier plantations, and the *Gazette* anticipates a course of prosperity throughout the year.

JAVA.

The following is translated from a Batavia newspaper by the *Straits Times*:—

Warlike operations in Atchin are again concluded for the present. Our troops have gained a success which is, fortunately, not dearly bought. Instead of a campaign on a grand scale, the operations have been limited to occupying a couple of important positions on the coast, so that we are now masters of the coast line from Krung Raya and Kwala Loh to Gighen. From the telegrams made public by the Government in the *Javasche Courant* or forwarded by it to the newspapers here, it appears that our troops, on the 26th of January last, landed at two places, Krung Raya and Kwala Loh, where no resistance was offered, the enemy being apparently surprised. At Krung Raya no place was found suitable for a fort. Colonel van der Heyden took up a position at half an hour's march from Kwala Loh. According to our correspondent at Atchin, the bivouac was twice fired upon during the night. On the 27th of January a column marched from Kotta Rajah across the mountains to effect a junction with Van der Heyden's column; the latter in the meantime had reconnoitred the neighbourhood, and found Campong Lamnga strongly garrisoned. The enemy offered no resistance in the mountains, and the columns effected their junction on the 28th. By this the panic which had already set in among the Atchinese became greater, and they evacuated Lamnga. On the 30th our troops marched up to Lambada, the principal fort of Tuku Paya, from which the 8th battalion had formerly been repulsed. The resistance here was great. The place was taken at the cost of four privates killed and twelve wounded; twelve cannon were captured. On the 31st General Diemont returned. Altogether there were captured three schooners, twenty-two cannon, fourteen barrels of cartridges, several bags of gunpowder, and weapons. Further particulars are still wanting. The state of health of the expeditionary troops was favourable, but this cannot be said of the garrison troops at Atchin.

The harbour works at Tanjong Priok have now been begun. The technical and administrative personnel have been appointed, and the works have been begun at Tanjong Priok, Pulu Merah, and Batavia, so far as they relate to getting everything in readiness for the reception of the machinery, &c., to be forwarded from the Netherlands.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

SINGAPORE.

The present P. and O. mail brings advices from this port to the

22nd Feb.; the P. and O. mail from London Jan. 19 was received on the 19th Feb. We take the following items of intelligence from the *Straits Times* :—

There is much speculation as to the government of the colony. The most probable arrangement is said to be that during the absence of Sir William Jervois in Australia, which is expected not to extend over six months, Colonel Anson will again become Administrator of the Government, Captain Shaw going from Malacca to Penang to take his place, and the Auditor-General, Mr. C. J. Irving, becoming Lieutenant-Governor of Malacca, his brother, Mr. E. A. Irving, acting as Auditor-General. It is said, however, that Sir William will be longer than six months in Australia, that on his return here he will at once proceed to Europe in any case, that there is little probability of his returning again to the Straits, and that his successor will be appointed at once. Who this successor will be nobody has any idea. There is a wild sort of rumour that Sir Henry Ord will return for a couple of years. Mention is also made of the name of Sir Arthur Phayre, the present popular Governor of Mauritius, and who was Chief Commissioner of Burmah some years ago. [Sir Wm. Jervois will resume his post on return from Australia.—*Ed. L. and C. T.*]

A meeting of the Legislative Council is to be held for the first reading of three Bills—one authorising the raising of £100,000 in Debentures of £100 by the Crown Agents in London at 5 per cent. for the purpose of covering the advances already made to the Native States and to provide funds for a police force, roads, and other works in Perak, as well as funds for certain public works in the Colony proper; another Bill for the protection of Chinese immigrants; and the third for putting down crimping and protecting emigrants.

Telegrams from London announce the appointment of Mr. Hugh Low as Resident of Perak. Further, it has been announced that Mr. Paul relieves Captain Speedy in Larut, and that Captain Speedy is to take charge of the Residency at Bandar Bahru, on the Perak river, which is to be removed further down the river to Durian Sabatang, where Sultan Abdullah used to reside. The list of changes as yet announced or known is completed by the appointment of Mr. W. H. Wormsley, Inspector of Immigrants, to act as Coroner in Province Wellesley; of Mr. Noel Penrose Trevenen, who has passed in Malay, to be Acting Inspector of Schools, and of Mr. Frank Oliver, to be Emigration Agent for the Straits in Negapatam.

The Chamber of Commerce has had its attention occupied for some little time back with the regulations in force in the territories of H. H. the Maharajah of Johore for the delivery of gambier, pepper, and other produce as far as they affect the flow of trade to Singapore. The Maharajah has given satisfactory assurances that the regulations will be modified in so far as they place any impediment in the way of freedom of delivery of produce.

A site having been very liberally granted for the purpose by H. E. the Governor on the west side of Fort Fullerton, next Johnstone's Pier, it has been resolved to erect a suitable building for the Chamber of Commerce, the Exchange, and a town Club, at a cost of \$25,000 to \$30,000, to be raised by subscription, and a committee of the members of the Chamber and of the Exchange has been appointed to carry out the necessary arrangements.

The report of the Directors of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, for the last half of 1876, is to be submitted to a general meeting on the 27th Feb. A dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum is proposed for the half-year.

A general meeting of the Sporting Club was held, when the programme for the Spring Meeting was submitted by the stewards, and adopted. There will be three days' races beginning on the 3rd April.

On the anniversary of the birthday of his Majesty the King of the Netherlands the Dutch men-of-war *Sambas* and *Amboina*, the German men-of-war *Elisabeth* and *Vineta*, the English man-of-war *Maggie*, and the colonial steamer *Pluto*, all were decorated with bunting, and at noon a Royal salute was fired from most of them in honour of the day.

His Highness the Maharajah of Johore intends to leave for England in a few months.

The sale of the sugar estate known as Tassik, in Province Wellesley, is announced for July.

Mr. Logan has resigned his appointment of Solicitor-General in consequence of the refusal of the Home Government to permit an increase of salary being given by the Local Government.

An interesting report on Perak, by Mr. Adamson, will be given in our next.

Market Reports.

(For dates see first page.)

IMPORTS.

YOKOHAMA.—Business had been exceedingly quiet. In Yarns, at the commencement of the period under review, a fair enquiry existed for the lower and medium spinnings of 16/24; 27/32 also meeting

with a little attention, but all counts closed weaker, with scarcely any demand. Indigo Shirtings and Velvets had been sold at lower rates, and Turkey Reds were almost neglected. Woollens were very quiet; Blankets, however, being fairly saleable. Metals continued extremely depressed. Stocks of manufactured Iron were accumulating, and dealers showed little desire to enter in transactions, even at the lowest range of quotations.

NAGASAKI.—Only trifling transactions had occurred at irregular prices. Cotton Yarn 16-24 ruled at \$85 to \$90; Grey Shirtings 8½ lbs., \$2, 7 lbs. \$1.75; T-Cloths, 7 lbs., \$1.65; Turkey Reds, 2½ lbs., \$2; Long Ells 12 lbs., Red \$3.75; Black \$3.25; Nail Rod Iron \$3.20 to \$3.70.

CHINKIANG.—Messrs. Spencer and Wolff write :—During the week now under review further investments in Manchester goods have been made by local traders in the anticipation of an improvement in prices so soon as the spring demand sets in; beyond these speculative purchases no business worthy of note has taken place; indeed, owing to the near approach of the Chinese New Year most of the dealers have returned to their homes, so that our market may be considered as virtually closed, and we shall consequently suspend our weekly report until business recommences after the holidays.

SHANGHAI.—Business in imports during the week had been limited, all private enquiry being suspended in consequence of the near approach of China New Year settlements and holidays. Still a fair quantity of goods had been forced at public auction, where dealers had paid current prices for the Cotton fabrics offered, principally Grey Shirtings. Woollens were quoted a shade lower all round. Sales 35,000 pieces Grey Shirtings at about former rates. 1,000 pieces T-Cloths, 7 lbs. Mexicans, at Tls. 1.17 to 1.23 per piece. 1,000 pieces Jeans at Tls. 1.51½. 1,600 pieces Drills, 14 lbs. common, at Tls. 1.82½. 1,420 pieces Camlets at Tls. 12.25 to 13.40 per piece. 540 pieces Spanish Stripes at Tls. 0.52 to 0.54½ per yard, and 500 pieces CPH Long Ells at Tls. 6.60 per piece. The quotations for Metals were nominally lower, a few lots had been offered at reduced rates, but the bulk of stocks was virtually out of the market, except at an advance on the current prices.

HONG KONG.—A fair amount of business had been transacted during the fortnight, generally at lower prices for Piece Goods, but steady rates for Yarns. Messrs. Olyphant and Co.'s Circular says :—The inquiry for Nos. 16/24 English Yarns has continued, and purchases have been freely made at previous rates; the supply on offer at the close is light, and is firmly held. Bombay kinds are also in strong hands, but the sales have been moderate in extent. Nos. 28/32 are somewhat inquired for, but Nos. 38/42 are not wanted at the moment. Piece Goods : The usual Chinese New Year's holidays have latterly interfered with business, but the market has been comparatively steady, and on the whole fair settlements have been made. Grey and White Shirtings and T-Cloths have all been in demand, and prices show but little change. The stock of Drills is small, and holders are firm. Woollens : Dealers generally have supplied their wants, and the market is now quiet and weaker for most fabrics. Metals : Lead is quiet, and L.B. can be bought for future arrival at \$7.40 per picul. There is nothing doing in Steel or Tin; and at the close Tin Plates are not inquired for. Quicksilver declined at one time to \$61.25, but is now steady at \$64 to 65 per picul. No sales of Yellow Metal have been reported. Coals : The arrivals have been 10,320 tons, including 5,770 tons of Cardiff. No settlements are being made at present, and prices are nominal.

CANTON.—Quotations for Lead were unaltered, and no business had been effected during the fortnight. The stock was estimated at 1,200 piculs.

BATAVIA.—Messrs. Houghton and Co.'s Circular says :—Our market is very quiet at the moment, caused partly by the season of the year, and also on account of our Chinese dealers being busy with their New Year holidays. This will continue, we expect, for about a month longer, when, after that, we look for a steady improvement setting in, which we trust will be permanent, as all import houses are steadily holding for an advance.

SINGAPORE.—A fair business had been done, notwithstanding the intervention of the Chinese New Year holidays. Prices of most articles were well maintained. The Metal market continued without improvement. The market for Coals had become weaker owing to heavy arrivals.

PENANG.—The market remained very quiet, and business, which had been almost suspended during the Chinese New Year holidays, was only just being resumed. Transactions in any class of goods had been limited.

EXPORTS.

TEA.

YOKOHAMA.—During the interval the market had been dull and dragging, settlements for the period amounting to 2,800 piculs; stocks were very light. Prices rather hardened towards the end of January, but closed weak at former quotations. Export from 1st May to date 14,537,444 lbs., against 17,369,279 lbs. in corresponding period of last season.

NAGASAKI.—Holders had shown more inclination to meet the views of buyers, and some 1,500 piculs had changed hands at \$2 to 2.50, reduction on former quotations. Stocks were increasing, and a further decline was expected. Quotations were :—Common to medium \$6 to 8; medium to fine \$9 to 12.50.

SHANGHAI.—Black : There had been a very trifling business done during the week, the settlements comprising 200 chests Oopack at Tls. 12½, 200 chests Ningchow, 990 chests Hohow, at Tls. 12½ to 14; total, 1,300 chests. Something over half of the settlements had been for New York. Teamen, as they saw the stock gradually melting away, were firm in their demands; on the other hand, exchange was so high, and prospects for common teas showed so little improvement, that buyers were not disposed to raise their offers. Green : There had been

an active demand for these kinds, the week's settlements being 3,500 half-chests Teenkai at Tls. 26½ to 29½, 8,000 half-chests Moyune at Tls. 26 to 30½, 700 half-chests Fychow at Tls. 24½ to 24½, 800 half-chests Pingauy at Tls. 28½ to 30; total, 13,000 half-chests. The great majority of the settlement had been for the New York market, whence there was news by wire of a rise from 2 to 3 cents. all round. The tea men generally had made their arrangements to "pass New Year," and were less eager to sell; the market was therefore firm, and teas were dearer than they were a week previously. Comparing the settlements with last year's at the same date, makes the prices about Tl. 1 to 1½ lower this year; but as exchange is fully 7 per cent. higher than last year, there is no gain in laying down cost. The export to date to the two countries showed a deficiency of 2,000,000 lbs.; but the stock was fully 2,000,000 lbs. larger, while the quantity afloat was about the same.

FOOCHOW.—Business for the season appeared to have closed, no settlements having been reported. The stock consisted of about 1,000 chests Congou, the bulk of which would probably be carried over till next season, as at recent prices Tea men are said to have been heavy losers.

AMOY.—Nothing of special interest had transpired, and the season was considered at an end. The barque Fidelio for London, would take about 333,000 lbs. Tea and the steamer Glenroy, about 80,000 lbs. for the same place. Upwards of 700,000 lbs. of Oolong had been sent by Coast steamer to Hong Kong for transshipment there to the sailing vessels Unanima and Ceylon for New York.

CANTON.—But little business had been effected owing to the approach of China New Year, and scarcely any stock remained upon the market.

SILK.

YOKOHAMA.—Business had been greatly interfered with by the tenor of advices from Europe, and a very heavy decline, of about \$100 per picul, that had taken place on this market, has failed to produce any response from buyers. The best descriptions of Hanks were very scarce and fully half of the stock consists of Oshius, which were altogether neglected. Filature Silks had fallen but slightly in value. Settlements from 1st July to date 19,250 bales against 10,700 in corresponding period of last season. Stock 2,000 bales against 700 bales at same date last year.

SHANGHAI.—There had been nothing of importance doing. Prices had declined Tls. 20 to 25 per picul, but without bringing forward buyers and the small shipments which were going forward were mostly on joint account with natives.—Teas: Very few settled, and it was difficult to give quotations. Woman Chop No. 2 offering at Tls. 500 (24s. 8d.), Common Market Teas quoted Tls. 440 (21s. 9d.) Tay-seams had been forced for sale and fair 9/12 moss was to be had at Tls. 280 (14s.). Low class Laeyangs were worth Tls. 270 to 280 (13s. 6d. to 14s.), and common Keahings Tls. 280 to 300 (14s. to 15s.).—Reels had formed a considerable portion of the fortnight's business, some 600 bales having been settled at Tls. 480 to 580 (23s. 8d. to 28s. 6d.) for R.R. Haineens and Tls. 490 to 570 (24s. 2d. to 28s. 1d.) for R.R. Teasles. Native consignments and joint account shipments account for most of the transactions reported, very few buyers being on the market.

SEASON 1876-77	1875-76.
Settlements for the fortnight ...	1,500 against 2,500
Total settlements to date ...	65,500 " 62,500
Stock estimated at ...	16,500 " 3,500

CANTON.—Messrs. Olyphant and Co.'s Circular says:—Almost complete inactivity has prevailed during the fortnight, chiefly owing to the unwillingness of holders to part with their stocks at prices offered by foreigners. We have therefore nothing of interest to report regarding this staple, and do not anticipate that any business will be transacted during the next two weeks, as the annual native festivities will extend over nearly the entire interval. It is currently reported that the result of the year's business shows a heavy loss to the native dealers in the city, and generally in the country. The profits made by them during the early part of the season have not been sufficient to meet the losses consequent upon the subsequent decline in values, and the gains from the rapid advance in prices appear to have remained with the producers only. The demand for re-reels has fallen off and no contracts are reported. Stocks remain as previously advised.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NAGASAKI.—Tobacco was steady at previous quotations; settlements 2,800 bales at \$4.50 to 7 per picul. Wax had been in demand for shipment to Hong Kong at previous rates. The stock had been reduced to 300 boxes, but arrivals were expected. Camphor was out of stock; arrivals could be purchased at \$14.50 to 14.75. Rice was without alteration. Coal was in better supply, and exhibited a downward tendency.

HONG KONG.—Camphor had further declined, and last purchases of the Formosa article were reported at \$16 per picul, packed, which figure was considered the current quotation. Japan Camphor was quoted \$17 per picul nominal, as the stock on offer was very small. Gamboge was worth \$49 per picul, and Vermilion \$33 per case, nominal. At Macao the nominal quotations were Aniseed Oil \$190 to 191 per picul; Cassia Oil, \$99 per picul; and Aniseed Stars \$22.50 per picul. No business was being done, owing to the Native New Year holidays.

CANTON.—Cassia: No settlements reported; holders asking \$11.80 to \$11.90 for cases and \$11.50 to \$11.60 for mats per picul, refusing to accept any lower prices. Stocks 5,000 piculs. Cassia Buds: No stocks: one sale of 70 piculs at \$17.75 per picul had cleared the market. It was considered very doubtful if any further supply would be received this season. No business had transpired in any article of general merchandise, with the exception of a limited inquiry for common Matting.

BATAVIA.—Messrs. Houghton and Co. report as follows:—Iron, Swedish, flat bars assorted, could be placed at f.12 to 12½ per picul; do. English do., is quiet at f.7½ to 8 per picul; do. Hoop is very seldom inquired for; do. Square and Round we value at f.7½ to 8 per picul; do. Sheet is quiet at f.11 per picul; do. Galvanised Corru-

gated is saleable at f.20 per picul; Zinc Sheet: Arrivals of this continue to take place, and we cannot quote the article now at over f.26 to 27 per picul; Sheet Lead we value at f.21 per picul, and dull at that; Pig Lead is in no inquiry at present; Tin Plates are not required for the moment; Copper Sheathing continues firm, but cannot be quoted higher than f.76 per picul; Iron Nails are quite neglected; Coals: West Hartley could be placed at about f.25 per ton, while Scotch are difficult of sale—Australian were lately sold at f.15½ per ton; Gunpowder: The importation of this is virtually prohibited at the moment by the Government only allowing 50 lbs. to be received at one time, while even to get this a great many official red tape forms have to be gone through.

SINGAPORE.—A falling off had occurred in the amount of business doing, partly attributable to the intervention of the Chinese New Year holidays, and partly to the unfavourable reports concerning the Home market. There had been little, if any, alteration in values.

PENANG.—Both Tin and Pepper had moved to some extent, purchases being mostly for the country trade. Other articles had not been offered in much quantity. Tin: Market opened at \$19 per picul, but under influence of heavy arrivals and lower quotation from home prices declined to \$18.70. Latterly prices had hardened to \$19.15 to \$19.20 as offered by purchasers for Europe. Stock remaining in Bazaar unsold amounted to piculs 3,350. Black Pepper: A good demand for India and China purchases of West Coast had been made at \$7.82½ to \$7.95 to extent of 2,500 piculs. A small lot of Atchin had been also taken for India at \$7.60, leaving market bare. White Pepper: A small purchase at \$19.50 is the only transaction noted. Basket Sugar had further declined; purchases after mail left were made at \$3.40, and latterly a small lot had been yielded at \$3.30. Penang No. 1 large sales at \$6.40.

EXCHANGES, & c.

[For dates see first page.]

ON LONDON.

At	Bank Bills.	Credits.	Documentary.
Yokohama, 6 m.s.	4s. 3d. to 4s. 2½d.	4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d. to 4s. 3½d.
Shanghai " "	5s. 10½d.	5s. 11d.	5s. 11½d.
Canton " "	4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d.
Hong Kong " "	4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d.
Manila " "	4s. 3½d. to 4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d. to 4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d. to 4s. 3½d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

	At Shanghai.	At Hong Kong.
Bills on India ...	Rs. 312 to 314	Rs. 228½
" Hong Kong ...	27 to 28 dia.	—
Bar silver ...	Tls. 111.25	8½ prem. (nominal)
Mexican dollars ...	Tls. 75.90	¼ prem (nominal)

During the fortnight, some weakness had been apparent in exchanges bank bills having declined to 4s. 3d., and some amount of private paper having been sold to a bank for forward delivery at same rate. For bank bills the demand had been small, but sales of private bills for immediate and forward delivery had exceeded the business usual at the period of the year. Bank shares had slightly weakened towards the close, sales being made at 29 premium cash and 29½ premium for future delivery. There were buyers of Union Traders' at \$1,800 to \$1,825. A few H. K. C., and M. Steamboat Company's shares had been sold at 12 per cent. discount, but 14 dia. was the closing value. Quotations were as follow:—

Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, 39 per cent. prem.
 Hong Kong Gas Company, \$75 per share.
 Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock, 47½ per cent. discount.
 China Traders' Insurance Company, \$1,825 per share.
 Hotel Shans \$47½ per share.
 Hong Kong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, 14 per cent. dia.
 Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company, \$370 per share.
 Union Insurance Society of Canton, \$815 per share.
 China Fire Insurance Company, \$168 per share.
 Chinese Insurance Company, \$302 per share.
 Chinese Imperial Loan, £99 (exchange 4s. 1½d.).

* * The latest telegrams report the rate for six months' bank bills at Singapore 4s. 6d., at Hong Kong 3s. 10½d., at Shanghai 5s. 4½d.

SHANGHAI SHARES AND STOCKS.

	Shares.	Paid up.	Latest Qtn.
Shanghai Dock Company ...	Tls. 500 ...	Tls. 500 ...	Tls. 200x.d.
Shanghai Gas Company ...	100 ...	100 ...	142
S. Tug and Lighter Company ...	850 ...	850 ...	600
French Gas Company ...	50 ...	50 ...	71
Hong K. Fire Insurance Co. ...	\$1,000 ...	\$200 ...	\$560
North China Insurance Co. ...	Tls. 2,000 ...	Tls. 600 ...	875
Yangtze Ins. Association ...	500 ...	500 ...	Tls. 625
Union Insurance Society ...	\$2,500 ...	\$500 ...	\$725
China Traders Co. (Limited) ...	5,000 ...	1,500 ...	1,650
China Fire Insurance Co. ...	500 ...	100 ...	165
Hongkew Wharf Co. ...	Tls. 100 ...	Tls. 100 ...	Tls. 89
Chinese Imperial Loan ...	— ...	— ...	£100x.d.
Pootung Dock Co. ...	Tls. 100 ...	Tls. 100 ...	Tls. 78½x.d.
China Merchants' S.N. Co. ...	500 ...	600 ...	Nominal.

Messrs. J. P. Bissett and Co.'s Report says:—Business during the week has been almost wholly confined to S.S.N. and Gas shares. Other stocks are quiet. H. and S. Bank: Shares are quiet, with sellers at 29 per cent. premium, exchange 75. S.S.N. Co.: A number of shares have changed hands at Tls. 94, 94½, and 95; more might be placed at the higher rates if they were offered. Shanghai Gas Co.: Sales are reported at Tls. 142. It is reported that the plant of the Steam Tug and Lighter Company has been sold to Mr. T. Wheelock.

HANDY—On the 21st March, at Abbot's-road, Great Crosby, near Liverpool, the wife of J. A. Handy, Esq. (formerly of Hankow) of a daughter.
HARNDEN—On the 24th Jan., at Haiphong the wife of Capt. Harndeu, of schooner *Uziah*, of a son.
HARRIE—On the 27th Jan., at Shanghai, the wife of J. Alex. Harrie, of a daughter.
HUGHES—On the 24th March, at Park House, Kensington-park-gardens, W., the wife of H. P. Hughes, Jun., of a son.
KOFOD—On the 1st Feb., at Hongkong, the wife of Charles E. Kofod, of a son.
KRAUSS—On the 2nd Feb., at Shanghai, the wife of Alfred A. Krauss, of a daughter.
MACALISTER—On the 22nd March, at Castle-hill, Harrier, Salop, the wife of Robert Macalister, Jun., of a daughter.
MARQUES—On the 5th February, at Yokohama, the wife of C. V. Martinho Marques, of a son.
PIKE—On the 15th March, at 21, Balfour-road, Highbury New-park, the wife of Francis C. Pike, of a son.
POTTER—On the 23rd Jan., at Nagasaki, the wife of F. A. Potter, B.Sc., of a daughter.
SANDER—On the 22nd March, at Hamburg, the wife of T. Sander, of a daughter.
SCHUSTER—On the 19th March, at 2, Lancaster-road, Belisle-park, the wife of Ernest Schuster, of a daughter.
SIMPSON—On the 24th Jan., at Kobe, the wife of C. R. Simpson, of a daughter.
WRIGHT—On the 20th March, at Maxton, Dover, the wife of Herbert Edwards Wright, of a son.
ZAPPE—On the 3rd Feb., at the German Consulate, Yokohama, the wife of E. Zappe, H.G.M.'s Consul, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CATES—PAINE—On the 20th March, at St. Stephen's Church, Westbourne-park, by the Rev. T. J. Rowsell, Vicar, and Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, George Frederick Cates, of Brookvale House, near Teignmouth, Commander in the P. and O. Steam Company's Service, to Mary Caroline, only daughter of the late Frederick Paine, of Great Barton, Suffolk.
FRY—RAW—On the 12th Feb., at Durban, Port Natal, by the Ven. Archdeacon Daykin, Frederick William Fry (late Indian Navy), of Fochow, China, fourth son of Joseph Fry, of Hornchurch, Essex, to Mary Addison, eldest daughter of the late Robert Raw.
GREGG—THOMAS—On the 13th March, at Trinity Church, Marylebone, by the Rev. W. Cadman, M.A., assisted by the Rev. V. W. Hutton, M.A., and by the Rev. G. Whitlaw, M.A., Charles Henry Gregg, Esq., M.A., Christchurch, Oxon late Capt. 8th Hussars, of Stannington, county Northumberland, to Kate Maria second surviving daughter of the late Lieut. Col. Nelson Thomas, Bengal Army, of Sketty, county Glamorgan, and formerly Supt. Woods and Forests, Punjab, India.
KIRWAN—FRAY—On the 15th Feb., at Trinity Church, Rangoon, by the Rev. J. E. Marks, Chaplain of the Irrawaddy Stations, and afterwards in the office of the Registrar of Marriages, Rangoon, Albert Kirwan, son of the late James Kirwan, M.D., Coroner for Dublin, to Lucretia Fanny, eldest daughter of J. Chichester Fray, Manchester.
NEVILL—BALLS—On the 15th inst., at St. George's, Hanover-square, William eldest son of H. W. Nevill, of Bingley-street, N., and Milkwood-road, Herne-hill, to Mary Jane, only daughter of George Balls, of Deptford.

DEATHS.

BEUCHER—On the 18th March, at 6, Melcombe-place, Dorset-square, Admiral Sir Edward Belcher K.C.B., aged 78.
EDMONDS—On the 18th March, at his residence, Wrotham-road, Gravesend, Kent, Capt. William Henry Edmonds, late of H.E.I.C.S., in the 85th year of his age.
GUEDDES—On the 14th Feb., at Hong Kong, Maria, wife of J. M. M. Guedes, aged 55 years.
HURLBUT—On the 25th Jan., at Yokohama, George Hurlbut, aged 39 years.
MARKS—On Feb. 4, at Yokohama, Francis Walter Marks, solicitor, aged 33 years.
MAXTON—On the 22nd March, in his office at 9, Fenchurch-street, Capt. Maxton, formerly of China.
MEYER—On the 8th Feb., at Yokohama, Frederick H. Meyer, son of F. Adrian Meyer, aged four years and six months.
POPOFF—On the 19th March, at 32, Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, beloved and regretted by all who knew him, the Rev. Basil Popoff, Chaplain of the Imperial Russian Embassy and to H.I. and R.H. the Duchess of Edinburgh aged 38.
WHITE—On the 6th March, at the Salvation, Prince's-street, Stamford street, S.E., in the 74th year of her age, Elizabeth, relict of the late Thomas White.
WHITE—On the 18th inst., at the same place, James, youngest son of the late Thos. and Elizabeth White, aged 37, having survived his beloved mother only twelve days; deeply regretted.
WIRTH—On the 5th Feb., at Langkat, Sumatra, Otto Wirth, of St. Gall, Switzerland aged 29 years.

THE WORKING MEN'S MEETING ON OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

On Thursday, March 22nd, a public meeting, convened under the auspices of the Anti-Opium Society and its supporters, with the object of organising a more formal meeting to elicit an expression of the views of the working-classes as to our relations with China, took place at No. 337, Strand. Among those present were Prof. Beesley, Mr. Richards, M.P., Mr. Chesson, &c., &c. A number of working-men had been expected to be present, but after waiting some time and such not proving to be the case, the Rev. Mr. Turner secretary to the Anti-Opium Society, suggested the adjournment of the meeting; upon which Mr. Motterhead suggested that if a more suitable evening were chosen, and steps were taken to inform the working-men of the object of the meeting, no doubt there would be a larger attendance.

After some further conversation, Mr. Richards, M.P., was unanimously voted to the chair, and in opening the proceedings he said that he understood that the object of the proposed meeting was to consider our relations with China, and that the reason for taking them into consideration at this moment was that for the first time since we had had any relations with that country China had sent envoys to represent her here of high character and great official distinction, and the promoters of the present movement were anxious that some steps should be taken to demonstrate the impression which this had made, and to show the desire which was entertained that our relations in future should be such that the two countries could live in peace instead of in mutual suspicion and distrust as hitherto. That such had been the case until now it was impossible to deny. What, then, had been the cause of this? In part, it was no doubt attributable to the national exclusiveness of the Chinese and their desire to live at a distance from other nations whom they regarded as barbarians; but what we had done in other places was not calculated to remove these prejudices. For instance, in India, we had gradually crept on in a policy of aggressiveness until we had taken the whole of the country. But whatever the cause, no doubt the Chinese had not been inclined to court our friendship, and he must say that their experience during the last forty years was not of such a nature as to diminish, but was emi-

nently calculated to increase their antipathy to us; as we had appeared before them chiefly as greedy and unscrupulous traders; as smugglers of opium; as the authors of three bloody and desolating wars; and the destroyers of their towns and the invaders of their capital. Such acts were not calculated to gain the friendship of any people; but he believed they had special cause, when looking at what we had done in India to feel hostility. So far as the real interests of this country were concerned, he believed Mr. Cobden had been right in maintaining that the country had been a material loser from this policy. Looking at the subject in its purely commercial aspect, the profits of the export trade hence had really only to be taken into account, because the Chinese were quite willing to send us their teas and silks without coercion, and if we set against these the cost of our Naval, Military, and Consular services, the result would be seen to be that instead of being gainers we were great national losers. But this was not all. We had introduced what all impartial witnesses admitted to be a deleterious drug, and this drug had brought demoralisation and death upon many in China. For his part, he thought the Opium trade one of the darkest blots on the national escutcheon, almost as bad as the slave-trade. He had often spoken against it before, and would always continue to lift up his voice against it. Twenty years ago an Anti-Opium Society had been formed, chiefly by the efforts of Mr. Joseph Sturges. He (Mr. Richards) acted as honorary secretary to that Society, but it was found impossible to arouse public attention or stimulate public feeling. Another association bearing the same name had now been formed, of which the Rev. Mr. Turner was secretary. Lord Shaftesbury had called attention to the subject in the House of Lords, and Sir Wilfrid Lawson and others had done so in the House of Commons. The matter had not been allowed to slumber, and the present was a good opportunity to bring pressure to bear upon the Government to cause them to reconsider their policy and to let the representatives of China know that at least a large body in this country repudiated responsibility as to the policy adopted in the past, and desired to clear the fair fame of England from the blot which had been cast upon it. He concluded by observing that there were many present who could give the meeting the advantage of their experience, and he called upon Professor Beesley for a few remarks.

Professor Beesley said that the difficulty had been that no class had ever identified itself with our policy in China. When the indemnity money was brought here a large crowd followed, expressing their pleasure at its having been obtained—a fact which proved that the working-classes were then inclined blindly to support the Government. He did, however, think such would be the case now. Enough was known on the subject to make those who guide the country more cautious. The fact that the report of the Grosvenor Mission was kept back showed that the Government was aware that there was now a party in the country whose opposition to the policy which was adopted might be expected, and which opposition they feared. The time had therefore come to obtain an expression of opinion from the working-classes, and if they were made acquainted with the facts connected with our intercourse with China it was impossible that they could be divided in their opinions on the subject. The present business he considered to be to organise a meeting, with a view of laying these facts before them; and it was certain that if the merits of the matter were known the promoters of the movement would obtain the support of the public, and this would enable the Chinese Envoys to take a much firmer tone than they could otherwise in negotiating with our Government. He considered that steps should be taken to get together a meeting of the working men of London.

Mr. Motterhead again addressed the meeting at some length, characterising the past policy of this country as "a murderous policy of forcing the Opium trade upon the Chinese," and arguing that this "truth" was not known, otherwise the strongest feeling would have been aroused. He attributed this policy to a "semi-military semi-official class, who were ever willing to plunge the country into difficulties, as they always contrived to gain by turmoil and aggression"—a class as much divided from the working classes as the priesthood of the Catholic Church. They were totally independent of our merchants, and did not care for our real commercial interests. He also animadverted upon the high-handed and bellicose policy of the late Lord Palmerston, which he considered had been the chief cause of the state of affairs which was now deplored. He was as anxious as any one that British prestige should be upheld, but this should be done only by benefiting the nations with whom they came into contact; and he trusted that a meeting would be held which would show that England was prepared to treat with justice nations who, if we believed our Christian faith, were, whatever their shortcomings our equals before God.

Dr. Badenoch, in seconding the proposal that a public meeting should be convened, suggested that it would be a suitable way to show the goodwill of the working-classes to the Chinese Envoys to invite those gentlemen to a banquet. This suggestion did not, however, appear to meet with much support.

A resolution was then passed that the committee should take the necessary steps to convene a public meeting for the expression of the opinion of the working-classes.

Professor Sheldon Amos suggested it would be advisable that

the main facts connected with the history of our past relations with China should be placed before them meantime in a succinct and intelligible form.

Mr. Chesson read a letter from Sir Charles Dilke, in which he expressed a hope to be present, and stated that since his visit in 1868 he had taken great interest in China. There was one point in which he considered the Government of that country still bad, namely, that it still inflicted judicial torture. Mr. Chesson observed that until recently this had been the case in Japan, but that under more enlightened auspices torture had now been abolished, and it was found that justice could be better administered without it. He thought the present occasion would be a suitable one for some remarks to be made upon the coolie trade.

The meeting then separated.

AN IMPERIAL MUSEUM FOR THE COLONIES AND INDIA.

We are glad to notice that progress is being made with the project which we some time back advocated for the establishment of a Museum for the Colonies and India. A meeting was held on the 20th inst. at the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion-house, when the preliminary resolutions were passed, the site favoured by the meeting being that of Old Fife House, on the Victoria Embankment. The proposals are to be submitted to Government, and a deputation, headed by the Lord Mayor, to wait upon Lord Beaconsfield and ask for their support. So far the scheme seems likely to progress; but an unfortunate difficulty has been raised by Mr. Fawcett, M.P., who felt himself called upon to propose that no portion of the expenses connected with the institution should fall upon the Indian Revenue. The resolution, which he brought forward was not put to the meeting, the business being confined to the question of the principle of establishing the Museum; but it is to be feared that the idea of the Institution being a tax upon Indian resources is likely to become spread, in consequence of Mr. Fawcett's suggestion, which we observe is already warmly endorsed by the *Daily News*. Now, however tender those who undertake the protection of Indian interests may be upon the subject of revenue under the delicate circumstances at present existing, it is somewhat stretching a point to suggest that India should not contribute her quota towards a scheme of this kind, by which she will be one of those most largely benefited. The sum total of the cost of keeping up the establishment will probably be something like £10,000 a-year, and India's share of this sum is surely not sufficient to be taken into serious consideration against the obvious advantages which she will derive from the scheme being carried out. It is suggested that the Crown Agents of the various colonies by taking offices in the building might reduce the expenditure by about £2,500 a year, so that the total funds required will not be such as to open the door for any very grave consideration of their burdensomeness to any given Colony. It is clear that India and the Colonies will be much more directly the gainers by such an Institution than the home country, and if they should not bear all the expense it is at least reasonable that they should be willing to pay the lion's share.

Naval and Military.

Rumours are current as to the successors of Vice-Admiral Ryder on the China station and Rear-Admiral Macdonald on the East Indian station, but we know on good authority that pending the settlement of the Eastern question no changes will be decided on.

The Ringdove, double screw gun-vessel, Commander Singleton, arrived in Plymouth Sound on the 19th inst. from China, via the Suez Canal. She has been employed on that station for upwards of eight years, having been commissioned at Portsmouth in October, 1868, and recommissioned at Hong Kong in 1873. She is now at Portsmouth, where she will be paid off.

Rear-Admiral Lambert, with the *Narcissus*, *Topaze*, *Newcastle*, and *Immortalité*, from China, arrived at the Cape of Good Hope on the 16th ult.

Admiral Sir Edward Belcher, K.C.B., died on the 18th inst., aged seventy-seven. He was one of the most distinguished scientific officers we have had in the Royal Navy, and had made various important surveys, in the Pacific, Behring Straits, and in the China Seas. He entered the navy in 1812. He was at the battle of Algiers, on board the *Superb*, and fought in her as signal midshipman. After the action he was selected by Lord Exmouth to make a plan of the batteries. In March, 1817, he passed a successful examination at the Royal Naval College, and obtained the rank of lieutenant in July, 1818, while serving with the *Salisbury*, 50, in Jamaica. After leaving Algiers he was employed off the West Coast of Africa against the slave-trade. He served nearly two years in the West Indies, and in 1824, he volunteered to accompany Captain Beechey in the *Blossom* on his scientific voyage to the Pacific, when he acted as assistant-surveyor to the expedition, and in that ship visited the frozen regions for the purpose of co-operating

with the expeditions under Franklin and Parry. As commander of the *Etna* and the *Sulphur* he executed some various important surveys. In the command of the latter he served at the destruction of the forts of the Bocca Tigris in company with the *Nemesis*, and in the operations against and capture of Canton, which were greatly facilitated by his previous surveys. For his services he was appointed captain in May, 1841, and nominated a Commander of the Bath in October following; and in 1843 received the honour of knighthood. In November, 1842, he was appointed to the *Samarang*, 26, surveying-vessel, and sailed in her for Borneo. Afterwards he visited Brunei, and there was offered by the Sultan the island of Labuan, whence Sir Edward proceeded to the China Seas. On June 4, 1844, while in the Straits of Jilolo, he fell in with and was attacked by a fleet of Illanon pirates. In the conflict which ensued the pirates were defeated, but Sir Edward unfortunately received a wound so severe that the surgeon who cured him was presented with the Blane medal. His conduct on that occasion met with the approbation of the Board of Admiralty, and was declared "highly creditable" by Lord Palmerston; and by a court of inquiry instituted at the instance of the Dutch, was thanked for his forbearance and humanity under the provocation he had endured. He was granted a pension of £250 for his wound. He also rescued the crew of the British barque *Premier*, which had been wrecked, the crew falling into the hands of the natives, on the west coast of Borneo, and afterwards concluded treaties with the two Sultans concerned. While in those parts he again visited the Madjicosimas, Loo-choo, and Japan, where his communications with the natives were conducted in so conciliatory a spirit that he was most favourably received by the inhabitants. At the Philippines the unprecedented privilege was conceded to him of surveying the different harbours and approaches within the forbidden limits of the batteries. He returned to England in 1847. Sir Edward's last appointment was to the command of the *Assistance*, in February, 1852, and of the expedition consisting of the *Resolute*, Captain Kellett; *North Star* (store-ship), Captain Pullen; *Intrepid*, Capt. M'Cintock; and *Pioneer*, Captain Sherard Osborn, which sailed in the following April for the Polar regions in search of Sir John Franklin; and of the *Investigator* and *Enterprise*, commanded by Capt. M'Clure and Collinson, which vessels had entered the Arctic Seas through the Behring Strait. In April, 1854, Sir E. Belcher found it necessary after mature deliberation to abandon his ships, and in the following year, having returned to England, he was tried by a court-martial and acquitted for so doing. He was nominated a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in 1867.

Deputy Inspector-General Alexander Eugene Mackay, M.D., R.N., died last week, after a short illness. Dr. Mackay had seen considerable service. He was Assistant-Surgeon in the *Vernon*, flag-ship in the East Indies, from April, 1845, until July, 1849, when he was transferred to the Medical Establishment at Hong Kong, and in October, 1853, was appointed Surgeon of the *Fantome*, sloop, on the Australian station. In April, 1857, he was appointed to the *Cumberland*, on the South-East Coast of America, and in August, 1858, was transferred to the *Royal Albert*, flagship of the Channel Squadron, from which ship he removed in March, 1861, to the *Marlborough* in the Mediterranean. He was appointed to Her Majesty's ship *Fisgard* for special service at the Medical Department of the Admiralty in December, 1872, and in this department discharged most important duties, his chief work being the preparation of the statistical reports of the health of the Navy. Dr. Mackay died at the comparatively early age of fifty-five from typhoid fever, arising from the drinking of poisoned water from a cistern at the office of the Naval Medical Department, Spring Gardens, through which an untrapped sewer-pipe passed.

THE ANTI-OPIMUM DEPUTATION.

The *Civil Service Gazette* has the subjoined remarks on the above subject:—How to prevent the Chinese from poisoning themselves with opium? is a problem as hard to solve by the statesmen of the Flowery Land as is that of how to prevent the English from poisoning themselves with alcohol? by the statesman of this realm of fogs and mists. The newly-arrived Envoy from the Celestial Empire was delicately questioned the other day by a deputation from the Anglo-Oriental Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, and the reply elicited was to the effect that, though sincerely desirous of putting a stop to opium-smoking, the Chinese Government was, as yet, unable to accomplish their wishes. The evil effects of opium-smoking they knew were most deplorable, far more demoralising and pernicious than those caused by the habitual drinking of spirituous liquors, but the cultivation of the drug and the trade in it has become so great that the difficulties of now dealing with the question of demand, supply, and consumption could not easily be surmounted. His Excellency added that it was vain to expect his Government to put down the opium traffic unless they were assisted by the Governments of England and of other countries, such as Holland, for example, which had just begun the cultivation of opium in Sumatra. A general arrangement and co-operation were requisite, otherwise the only result would be that the stoppage of one source of supply would be followed by the opening up of another in a different quarter. Moreover, said His Excellency, significantly, it should be borne in mind that the people of China are likely to be distributed over the earth's surface in large numbers, and if the evil of opium smoking is not checked in time it would be impossible for other nations to escape the contaminating influence of the pernicious habit. In fact, the Chinese Government is as much puzzled how to cure the opium vice as our Government is to cure the drinking vice. If we could point to our success in the suppression of drunkenness we might more confidently urge our demands upon China for the suppression of opium-eating (!) and smoking.

THE CHINESE ENVOYS.

The Chinese Envoys are commencing to go about to the various public institutions and other places of interest. They have visited the General Post-office and the Telegraphic Department, being conducted

over the establishment by Lord John Manners, the Post-Master General; and on the evening of the same day they were present at Christ's Hospital and witnessed the public supping of the boys. They were much struck when told that this custom had been maintained for over 300 years, a fact which would somewhat shake the Chinese notion that the outer Barbarian has only commenced to become civilised since he came into contact with the Celestial Empire. They expressed admiration at the dress of the boys and their conduct. They were also present at a reception by Lady Derby at the Foreign-office, and another at Lady Egerton of Tatton's, at the latter of which they met the poet Browning and other celebrities. Kwo has himself gained some laurels as a poet, and expressed great satisfaction at meeting Mr. Browning, with whom he had some conversation through one of his interpreters. Lady Kwo—as she is generally styled—has paid a visit to the Art School for Ladies' Embroidery, where she adjusted one of the frames correctly and embroidered a few stitches. On the 23rd the Envoys, accompanied by the Right Hon. R. A. Cross, the Home Secretary, paid a visit to the British Museum.

The Japanese Legation—consisting of Woeyeno Kagenodi Jushie, Luzuki Kinso, Morimichi Moteno, Sononda Kokichi, and A. Tatsulo—are now on a visit to Brighton as the guests of Mr. James Ashbury, M.P. On the 23rd inst. they partook of luncheon at Sir Albert Sassoon's, and afterwards dined with a distinguished party, including the Mayor (Alderman Charles Lamb), at Mr. Ashbury's residence.

CHINESE LABOUR IN PERU.

The Peruvian Congress has authorised the Executive to contract with Oliphant and Co. for the introduction of Chinese labour into Peru, in conformity with the existing treaty between Peru and China, and voted the law granting a yearly subsidy for this purpose of 160,000 soles. Congress, however, withheld its sanction of the return of guano and nitrate already agreed upon between the Government and Messrs. Oliphant. It was alleged that the Government would, nevertheless, insist upon its right to carry out the original agreement on the ground that Congress has no power to rescind an executive measure entered upon with the authority of the Legislature. It was urged that Peru must be supplied with labour, which it was believed could only be profitably obtained from China.

QUEENSLAND AND CHINESE COOLIES

In the House of Commons on the 19th inst. Mr. Stewart asked if it is the case that there is an Act now waiting for the Royal Assent, passed by the Government of Queensland, for the purpose of restricting the immigration of Chinese coolies into that colony; and, if so, whether Her Majesty's Government would consent to the same? Mr. J. Lowther (Under-Secretary for the Colonies) said that a Bill had been passed by the Government of Queensland on the subject, but that it did not profess on the face of it to restrict Chinese immigration. But Her Majesty would not be advised to assent to it, as some of the provisions were objectionable.

THE ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN CHINA MISSION.

The annual meeting of the Glasgow Branch of the Scottish Auxiliary to the China Mission of the Presbyterian Church of England was held on the 15th inst. in the Religious Institution Rooms. Mr. James White, of Overton, occupied the chair; and among those present were Rev. Dr. Bonar, Revs. G. W. Thomson, Ross, Taylor, James Johnston, R. M. Thornton, ex-Baillie Millar, Messrs. James Campbell, of Tillychewan, Colin Brown, J. C. White, J. R. Millar, James Keay, Archibald Hewat, Rev. W. S. Swanson, of Amoy; Rev. Hugh Ritchie, Formosa; and Dr. Dudgeon, Peking (of the London Missionary Society). Letters of apology had been received from Rev. Dr. Somerville, Rev. Dr. Adam, Dr. James Mitchell, and others.

The Chairman, in introducing the business, referred to the extent of the field presented by China for missionary enterprise, containing as that country did about one-third of the entire population of the globe. It was exceedingly gratifying to find that although there was no special mission to China connected with any of our Scottish Presbyterian Churches, there were branch associations in connection with the English Presbyterian Church Mission in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee; and it was still more gratifying to find that of the fifteen missionaries sent out the whole were from Scotland. The stations more particularly taken up by the branch of the Association whose interests they were met to advance were Amoy, Swatow, and Formosa. The population of these places was very great, and they could easily suppose that over such a large tract of country a mere handful of missionaries could do but very little for the advancement of Christ's cause, or the promotion of the Gospel amongst the Chinese. At the same time, the missionaries who were settled in China had, during the last few years especially, done very much to bring the Word of God within the reach of the people. It was now estimated that among the 300 stations which were scattered over China there were something like 12,000 members of the Presbyterian Church, and 2,000 of these were in communion with the English Presbyterian Church. The Chairman expressed regret that Glasgow did so little for the support of this Mission. He did not know how it was that, while Edinburgh contributed £1,000 a-year, and Aberdeen £600, Glasgow should send the miserable sum of £460. He trusted that the result of this meeting would be that greater liberality would in future be manifested in promoting the cause of Christ in that distant land than had been done in the past.

Rev. James Johnston, in submitting the report, said it was with regret that he found himself called on to give it his last report of the auxiliary in support of the China Mission, as he was under the painful necessity of resigning his post and leaving a city in which he had laboured for nineteen years. He should perhaps best discharge his duty by stating what the Mission was when he joined it in Amoy twenty-three years ago and what it was now. In 1854 the Mission staff consisted of two ordained missionaries—the Rev. William Burns and himself, and one medical missionary. There was no Mission chapel, and the hospital was closed owing to the ill-health of Dr. Young. It was his (Dr. Johnston's) privilege to organise that Mission station in that year. It consisted of seven converts brought out of

heathenism by Mr. Burns. Now the state of the Mission was as follows:—There were three centres of operation—Amoy, Swatow, and Formosa. In these three districts there were last year—first, European agents—12 ordained missionaries, 3 medical missionaries; second, native agents—60 evangelists, 27 students for the ministry, and 4 evangelists; third, [the native churches—50 regular churches and stations and 2,200 communicants. These represented a Christian population of from 8,000 to 10,000 souls. With these facts they left the cause to the intelligent sympathy and liberality of the friends in Glasgow. There was a louder call than ever for both men and money. The cost of the operations was last year nearly £8,000, and of this Glasgow only contributed the small sum of £462.

Rev. W. S. Swanson, who addressed the meeting, spoke hopefully of the progress of missionary work among the Chinese, and said he thought the English Presbyterian Church had acted with great judgment in the selection of their field of operations.

Rev. Hugh Ritchie, Formosa, also addressed the meeting.

Dr. Dudgeon moved the first resolution—"That this meeting, having heard from Rev. W. S. Swanson, of Amoy, and Rev. Hugh Ritchie, of Formosa, of the blessing which has attended the labours of the missionaries, desires to record its gratitude to God, and considers that in the increasing facilities for preaching the Gospel in China there is a loud call for increased effort." As a missionary and a Scotchman he was glad to meet his revered friends from the South of China. To him, in speaking of missionary work, the wonder was not that they had converted thousands but that they had converted one. Mr. James Campbell of Tillychewan seconded the motion, which was adopted.

It was afterwards agreed, on the motion of Rev. Dr. Bonar, seconded by Rev. G. W. Thomson, to approve of the report and reappoint the committee.

A vote of thanks was then passed to the chairman, and the meeting separated.

THE JAPANESE LEGATION AT NEW YORK.—The lively reporter of the *New York Herald*, describing the Japanese Envoy and his lady at the installation of the President, says they have fallen so gracefully and naturally into the customs of the country as to appear very little like foreigners from the far away East. "Mrs. Yoshida Kujonari is a dark but very pretty brunette, whose almond eyes and pleasant ways have made her hosts of friends here. The Japanese ladies were similarly attired in black silk toilets with cloaks of the same material and small black hats with cream coloured trimmings and cardinal roses. Conspicuous among the Japanese Legation on the floor was General Saga, an Oriental Adonis, whose Imperial moustache and dark eyes, cut somewhat on the bias, as Oriental eyes are, have made sad havoc among the society belles." The paragraph shows the advantage of Democratic institutions. We have nothing like this among our Court reports here.

TREATIES OF COMMERCE.—Lord Derby has received a deputation from the Associated Chambers of Commerce, who indicated the basis on which it was desirable that treaties with foreign countries should be renewed. The Foreign Secretary, in reply, said it ought not to be forgotten that in dealing with foreign countries on the subject of treaties the Government had only one weapon to work with, and that was argument. They knew that the system of free trade had been successful with themselves, and from experience believed it would be equally successful with other nations. It was the Government of this country which had made almost every concession that was in their power to make. They had lately taken up the treaty question as a matter of bargain, and had told other countries that if they made certain concessions to us we should do the same to them.

We regret to announce the sudden death of Captain Peter Maxton of the firm of Shaw and Maxton. The deceased gentleman attended the offices of the firm, No. 9, Fenchurch-street, on the 22nd inst., apparently in his usual health, and about 2 o'clock he was seated at his desk having some conversation with Mr. Shaw, when he was noticed to be seized with a kind of fit, and he shortly after expired in the office. The deceased was a member of Lloyd's Committee, and formerly commanded several vessels in the China trade before the days of steam.

The house and grounds of Manley-hall, near Manchester, lately the property of Mr. Sam Mendel, have been acquired by a public company, which propose to form them into a place of recreation for the teeming population of Lancashire somewhat on the model of the Crystal Palace or the Alexandra Park at Muswell-hill. The scheme includes the idea of a large iron and glass building which may be used as a permanent art gallery, winter garden, and promenade and concert hall.

DR. SCHLIEMANN gave an interesting account of his discoveries at Mycenæ, at a meeting of the Antiquarian Society, on the 22nd inst. He received a hearty welcome from a number of distinguished visitors, Mr. Gladstone taking the opportunity of paying a high tribute to the work of Dr. Schliemann, and to the assistance which he has received from Mrs. Schliemann. Amongst those present was Mr. Alfred Tennyson.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Surgeon Major Valesius Skipton Gouldsbury, M.D., C.M.G., is appointed Administrator of the Government of the Settlement on the Gambia. The appointments of Mr. W. H. Read as Dutch Consul-General for the Straits Settlements, to reside at Singapore; Mr. Federico Herbert Hemming as Consul in London for Venezuela; and Mr. Julio Satorres as Spanish Vice-Consul at Glasgow are gazetted.

At the next meeting of the Geographical Society a paper will be read, "On the Navigation of Smith Sound, as a Route towards the Pole," by Captain Sir George S. Nares, R.N., K.C.B.

MR. ASHBURY, M.P., repeated his dissolving views entertainment, illustrative of America, China, and Japan, in the Dome at Brighton, before a crowded audience, on the 17th inst.

Sir Thomas and Lady Wade and family have arrived at the Bristol Hotel, Burlington-gardens, son.

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JAMES WEST, PUBLISHER,
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The London & China Telegraph.

LONDON: MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1877.

A STATEMENT of some importance as bearing upon coolie emigration from China to Peru appears in the *Panama Star and Herald*, and is reproduced elsewhere. It appears that arrangements have been made through Messrs. OLYPHANT and Co. for the introduction of coolies under the new treaty between China and Peru; but that there is some disagreement between the Peruvian Congress and the Executive on the subject, the former desiring, contrary to what the Executive hold to be their right, to interfere with the terms of the contract. It is to be hoped that the difficulty may be adjusted, and that this will be the inauguration of a system which will free emigration from China to Peru from abuses which formerly attached to it, and will prove beneficial to both nations.

WE understand that the directors of the Austrian Lloyd Steam Company have decided on laying down at their building yard at Trieste two screw steamers of 3,000 tons. They have at present on the stocks one of 2,000 tons, and two small steamers for local service. It is rumoured that the line to Bombay will be shortly extended on to the Straits and China. At the yard of the Messageries Company is the *Yangtze* (at first named the *Tonquin*), a steamer of over 3,500 tons and 600 H.P., which will be ready in August. The *Sankoi*, a similar vessel, will probably be launched early next year.

WE have much pleasure in calling attention to the announcement that HER MAJESTY has been pleased to confer upon Mr. MEDHURST the honour of knighthood. In our last issue we took occasion to animadvert upon the omission of the GLADSTONE-LOWE Government to confer some distinction upon him after his able conduct of the Yangchow negotiations; and we are glad to find that he has been rewarded by a more gratifying, if somewhat tardy, recognition of his services.

TELEGRAPHIC advices, dated Madrid, March 23rd, state that the protocol of a Treaty between England, Germany, and Spain, with reference to Sulu, has been signed. This information is in conformity with that which we have already received on this side, so far as the action of this country is concerned, and with that given by our Hamburg Correspondent with respect to the action of Germany, and it may, therefore, be presumed that the matter will be very shortly settled.

Two ironclads for the Japanese Government, one of which is under construction by Messrs. SAMUDA, and the other by Earle's Shipbuilding Company, will be launched next month.

THE main army of YAKOOB BEG of Kashgar, 50,000 strong, is reported to be stationed in a fortified camp at Tarfur. The Chinese troops opposed to them are at least as numerous.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

THE various views which have been expressed upon the Opium question on the reception of the deputation which waited upon the Chinese Envoys on the 17th inst. throw much light upon the subject. We have now a clear enunciation of the manner in which the matter presents itself

both to the Anti-Opium Society and also to the Representatives of the Chinese Government in this country; and the result is that the question appears in a form much modified as compared with what have hitherto been understood to be the views adopted by the Society, and with what were generally stated to be those of the Chinese officials. The former, if we may take Mr. MARK STEWART's statement of them as correct, are by no means of so extreme a character as has been naturally supposed from the title which the Society has assumed, and the object—that of suppressing the Opium trade—which it has declared itself prepared to contend for. The Chinese, according to the statement made by the Envoy, are not only alive to the difficulties which lie in the way of putting down in toto the practice of Opium-smoking and the traffic in the drug, but are prepared to make all fair allowance for maintaining the trade so long as it appears impossible to do away with the consumption of Opium in China, and its production either there or in any foreign country. While deprecating the past history of the Opium trade and the evils resulting from the use of the drug in no qualified terms, Mr. MARK STEWART pertinently inquired how far the Chinese Government was prepared to put down the production and use of the drug within their dominions, and justly observed that any steps which the Anti-Opium Society might take would be useless unless they had the hearty co-operation of the Chinese authorities themselves. The reply of the Envoy, as interpreted by Dr. MACARTNEY, was, though reasonable, not very definite upon the degree to which the Chinese Government was likely to be able to succeed in instituting reforms at home. China is a large country, and the taste is wide-spread; and both these elements are difficult to deal with. It could scarcely be expected that the Envoy would add a third cause which militates very greatly against any effective action, namely, the inherent weakness of the Chinese authorities themselves. But those acquainted with China are aware that the Central Government, though nominally despotic, is not strong enough to force the officials in distant parts of the empire to obey its mandates, and hence it is to be reasonably expected that it would find difficulties of a serious character to contend against in attempting such a step as a thorough and rapid reform in respect to the consumption of the drug. In addition to this, when once a taste such as that for Opium has become established, it is almost an impossibility for any Government to put it down; and the Chinese Envoy laid stress upon this fact as an excuse—and we believe it is a valid excuse—for the inability of the Government of his country to stamp out Opium-smoking at once, though he held out some hopes that this end might be attained ultimately. The most important point which he noticed in his reply was that it would be useless for the English Government to put down the trade in Indian Opium unless other countries agreed that they would not cultivate the drug. This point is so obvious that it would seem to be final on the subject. If the result of giving up our trade and revenue in India should be that some other country obtained them, the only effect of our action would be to do a great deal of injury to India and no possible good to China. Such is the opinion which the Chinese Envoy himself entertains; and while this is the case, we can scarcely expect that very vigorous action will be taken in the matter. In fact, it has now been shown that the suspicions of lukewarmness on the part of the Chinese Government, long entertained, were only too well founded; and that the astute officials at Peking are more than doubtful whether anything they or we could do would have the desired effect. The answer which has been given will certainly take many who were enthusiastic on this subject by surprise. At the same time, the interview which has taken place will be beneficial, as it must tend to elicit more clearly the true merits of this complicated question. But whatever difficulties may exist in the way of putting down the Opium traffic and doing away with the consumption of the drug in China, we think—seeing the strong views which the Chinese authorities are prepared to express upon general grounds against the use of Opium—that the Indian Government would at least do well to put down the Bengal monopoly. Monopolies of all kinds are contrary to the spirit of our laws and constitution; and whatever diverse views

may be entertained concerning Opium, there can scarcely be two opinions that it is not desirable that the English Government should be directly interested in fostering the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of the drug. If the Anti-Opium Society can attain this end they will have done some good; but more than this it would seem Utopian to hope for.

STRAITS AFFAIRS.

OUR recent advices from the Straits Settlements are not satisfactory. They betray the prevalence of a general sense of uneasiness and dissatisfaction as regards both the affairs of the Colony and our relations with the neighbouring Malay States. The execution of Maharajah LELAH and others for the murder of Mr. BIRCH is said to have had an effect far from favourable on the natives; and the *Straits Times*, representing the European element of the Colony, complains loudly of the secrecy in which the proceedings of the trial of these wretched men were kept. It does not appear, indeed, that the Court which tried them closed its doors; but a Colonial newspaper could hardly be expected to send reporters to Perak; and the official report ought surely to have been at once published in the *Government Gazette* for the information of the public, which has a very legitimate interest in knowing all the particulars of the case. To make a mystery of such matters is the surest way of creating a belief that there is something which the authorities have an interest to conceal. If things are kept in the dark, the not unnatural inference is that it is because they are unable to bear the light. Unfortunately, in the present instance, rumours are afloat that a good deal has been elicited to show that the Perak people had much to suffer at the hands which were to guide them in the arts of government and civilisation, and that it was not until after vain appeals for redress at Singapore that they resorted to the desperate expedient which involved so much trouble, misery, and bloodshed. From the outset the Colonial-office and Colonial authorities were repeatedly warned, both here and in the Colony, that the success of their experimental interference with Malay States would depend on the men employed as Residents; and if these warnings as well as the complaints of the Malays were disregarded, those whose duty it was to give them attention have much to answer for. But we trust that Lord CARNARVON will lay before Parliament without delay the fullest particulars about the trial in question, and about Malay affairs in general, and that they will dispel the doubt and distrust which have arisen from the reticence so much complained of. We shall be glad to learn, also, who is now recognised as the Sultan of PERAK, since both ISMAIL and ABDULLAH are prisoners; and how long are those Chiefs to be left in that state? If they are to be brought to trial, why is the trial not proceeded with?

The little Nine States Confederation near Malacca, though at present at peace, is left in a condition of anxiety by a scheme, having for its object the gift of the virtual supremacy over the whole Confederation to the Maharajah of JOHORE. Those who are best acquainted with the history of the Maharajah's title to his own principality and with the feelings entertained by the Malays of the Peninsula towards him, consider such a measure decidedly impolitic, to say nothing of its justice. The Chiefs of the States are opposed to it, and though some of them have been induced to give their formal consent to it, it is said that their real assent is not to be inferred from their attaching their seals to a paper, while one Rajah at least has summoned up courage enough to refuse even his formal concurrence. Surely it ought to be known at Singapore that the ruler of Johore is regarded by the Malays as a mere usurper and tool of our Government. Accordingly, his influence among them is not equal to that of a third-class Colonial official, and to vest in him the supreme control of the Confederate States would only be to sow the seeds of future trouble for ourselves. If they are to be subject to us, we ought to recognise no control and tolerate none but our own. The Queen of ENGLAND is the only *Yang per tuan* of the *Nigri Sumbilan*. It should be our policy to encourage all the native Malay States to look to ourselves as their friend and adviser, as the best arbiter in all their differences, and

in the last resort as the Supreme authority for the maintenance of peace and good order among them.

The retirement of Mr. DAVIDSON from the Residency of Perak is universally regretted, and has been the subject of some comment and surmise. He was admirably qualified for his post; he had acquired the public confidence in the highest degree, and he was supposed to be fully appreciated in Downing-street. It was therefore with no little surprise that the news was received that he had suddenly thrown up the appointment, only a few months after he was entrusted with it. Reasons of health are assigned; but the public is so incredulous about the maladies of officials that it seems, in the Straits, to think of Mr. DAVIDSON's health with no more sympathy than is given in this country to General IGNATIEFF's travels in search of an oculist. The question why he resigned does not seem to have yet received an adequate answer. Perhaps the Colonial-office will be good enough to throw some light on it. How far Mr. HUGH LOW, late of Labuan, will be able to replace him remains of course to be proved; but in selecting such a successor, Lord CARNARVON appears to have been guided by the desire of choosing a man who may be presumed to have some acquaintance with the races with which he will have to deal. We fear, however, that the little rock of Labuan, with its population of less than 4,000 souls, mostly Chinese, has afforded Mr. LOW but a very limited field for learning much of the Malays. It may have been on similar grounds that a Mr. INNES was recently appointed to the Residency of Langat; for if we are not misinformed, that gentleman was once in the service of the Rajah of SARAWAK, an excellent school for learning the art of dealing with Oriental races. We are but imperfectly informed, however, of the nature or length of his services in Sarawak; but if he has entered our service, backed by the recommendation of Mr. BROOKE, we shall probably find in him an efficient public servant.

The financial condition of the Colony cannot be deemed very flourishing if the report current at Singapore is well founded, that a loan of £200,000 was in contemplation. The administration of justice also is another subject of complaint. The *Straits Times* appeals to Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY to call the Colonial-office to account for its treatment of the Colony in the matter of Judges; and private letters represent the Courts as combining delay with that proverbial uncertainty which is said to be one of the law's glories. If this be true it is inexcusable. The Colony has more Judges than it ever had in Indian times, and we presume the Colonial Minister can find as good Judges as the India Board used to find formerly. The only difference lies in the systems of the two departments. Under Indian rule the Judges were required to remain at their posts, and they did so. But under the laxer sway of the Colonial-office, their Honours, like other officials, get their furloughs and pass nearly a quarter of their time of service at home, and their seats, in their absence, are filled as well as the Colonial resources admit.

Since the above was in type we have heard on good authority that the future Government of Perak and Larut have been decided on, and that a Blue-book will be shortly published giving the details.

PROPOSED WORKING MEN'S MEETING ON THE CHINA QUESTION.

IN another column we give a full report of a meeting of a somewhat novel character. Under the auspices of the Anti-Opium Society, a preliminary conference of working men, convened with the object of organising a future public meeting to enable the working classes to convey to the Chinese Envoys their views as to our relations with China, and with regard to the Opium question, took place at 337, Strand, on the evening of the 22nd inst. Mr. RICHARD, M.P., was voted to the Chair; and in addition to him, Professor SHELDON AMOS, Dr. BRIDGES, Professor BEESLEY and others were among the speakers. The number of working men present was small; but one or two who addressed the meeting expressed their opinion that there would be a larger attendance if a more suitable evening were chosen, and due steps taken to make them acquainted with the nature of the matter to be laid before them, and a

resolution was passed with this object. The Chairman, and others who spoke, condemned, in terms which, if not over accurate, were certainly sufficiently strong, what they held to be the high-handed and aggressive policy of Great Britain in her relations to China, and the injustice which she had done in forcing her trade, and especially the Opium traffic, upon the Chinese; and they concluded by expressing their opinion that the advent of their Envoys afforded a suitable opportunity to let the Chinese know that such action as had been taken did not meet with the countenance or approval of a large and influential section in this country. There is accordingly, if it be possible to rouse up sufficient interest on the subject, to be a further meeting at which the working-man is to be enlightened upon the history of our relations with China for the past forty years, and then be called upon to express his ideas to the Chinese Envoys, with the view, as one of the speakers at the meeting put it, of strengthening the Representatives of China in their negotiations with the Government here. The action taken by the Anti-Opiumists shows, it must be confessed, great consideration both for the Chinese Envoys and for the working-men of London. The former, we make no doubt, would be unable to manage their own business without the valuable aid which is quite voluntarily proffered to them, while the latter will, we are confident, be delighted to find out that they are just the very section of the English nation which is specially qualified to judge of the exact merits of a question which has for years puzzled some of the wisest of our statesmen and diplomatists and which involves issues of the most difficult and delicate nature. Seriously, however, we cannot but think that the enthusiastic and well-meaning members of the Anti-Opium Society have not sufficiently recognised the difference between themselves and comparatively uneducated people like the working men of London in ability to judge of a complicated matter, such as the Opium question, was shown to be by the reply made by the Chinese Envoy to the recent deputation; and we cannot but think that they are somewhat presuming upon H.E. Kwo's good nature if they expect him to receive deputations *ad libitum* from every class which thinks it can enlighten him as to how he should perform his diplomatic duties. The reception of the recent deputation was something very unusual; but the Envoys did well to show a willingness to hear what such influential gentlemen as composed it had to say upon a matter that had been so much discussed as the Opium question; but having done this, they have certainly gone as far as courtesy requires; and can hardly be expected in their position as the responsible Representatives of China to our Government to be in any way mixed up in a *quasi-party* movement; or appear to be making use of any one section of society as a means of forcing the Government to which they are credited to comply with any demands they wish to make. Such a course would be in the highest degree detrimental both to our own interests and those of China, and we trust that the Envoys will be sufficiently well-advised to set their faces against any attempt to bring pressure to bear either upon them or upon the Government in regard to the delicate and difficult negotiations which they have been appointed to conduct.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE FAR EAST.

THE volume of Papers upon "The Foreign Relations of the United States for 1876" contains some very valuable despatches referring to matters in China, Japan, &c. The following, with reference to the Woosung Railway, throws much light upon the proceedings connected with that undertaking, and practically answers the severe accusations which have been made with regard to it. It would appear from Mr. SEWARD'S statement that originally the idea propounded was that of making a "horse road," but it also seems that the Chinese authorities were from the first aware that a tramway was to be laid down:—

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bradford.

No. 4.]
Sir,—I have learned that an engineer has arrived from England to prosecute the construction of the railroad from Shanghai to Woosung. It is altogether likely that the Chinese authorities will object to the work, and appeal to you to restrain any of our countrymen who may be concerned in it. I think it well, under the circumstances, to state to you my views as to the attitude which you should assume.

Hong Kong, Feb. 2, 1876.

The actual situation I understand to be this:—The ground for the line has been purchased and paid for. The termini are Shanghai and Woosung, which latter town is ten miles below Shanghai, at the junction of the Whampoo and Yangtze Rivers. A line of railroad over this route would serve the convenience of foreigners in going to and from shipping detained at Woosung by a lack of water on the bar. There is a considerable Chinese population at Woosung who would assist in supporting it when opened. The ground was bought ostensibly for a maloo (or horse-road), and I believe that the authorities knew that rails would be laid down for a tramway.

The leading motive of the promoters of the enterprise is a desire to exhibit to the Chinese a railway in practical operation, and thus to hasten the moment for a general introduction of railways into the Empire.

Every step taken thus far has been regular and defensible, saving, perhaps, that in a strictly moral point of view the ultimate object should have been declared from the outset. That this would have defeated the enterprise there can be no doubt.

I am free to say that I sympathise most keenly with the promoters. They are striving to confer a benefit upon China. Their spirit is such that they will be perfectly willing to vary the plans to meet the views of the Chinese, so far as these are founded upon reason or even upon prejudices, which are strongly held, and saving, always, demands to abandon the undertaking. They believe they have a right to build a road over ground which they have bought and paid for.

The promoters have been largely our countrymen. The corporation has become British.

Under these circumstances our office at Shanghai may now properly withdraw from the leading position which it has heretofore taken. Such position would not indeed be expected under the circumstances, and might be offensive to the British authorities.

But sympathising with the purpose of the promoters as I do, and as I believe our Government will, I advise you to co-operate with the British consul and your colleagues generally in their efforts to secure the peaceable establishment of the line.

The arguments which you can best use will be of an expostulatory sort. You may say to the native authorities, why do you object to the enterprise? It is undertaken for the general benefit. It can harm no one. The procedure which has been pursued need not be considered a precedent for the future. You can always interpose treaty stipulations against the buying of lands towards interior points for other enterprises of the sort. By what right do you attempt to interfere with the use of lands acquired by foreigners? Why will you persist in a course which will seem strange and inexplicable to the people of western countries? Such and other considerations of the sort you can freely urge, and always as a last resort say that if they desire to restrain the enterprise the only practical course is to take legal action in the British court.

There will be no wisdom in assuming more of right in the premises than we can do with justice. I would avoid any declaration which would call in question the sovereignty of the Emperor over the soil and the right of his Government to control works of a public nature. Eastern peoples are sufficiently likely to consider us as aggressive in the pursuit of our purposes and careless of their rights without our giving them actual facts upon which to support such a belief.

I wish every success to your efforts and those of your colleagues, and will do all I can to aid you within the lines I have laid down, and subject, of course, to the views of the Government.—I have, &c.,

GEORGE F. SEWARD.

O. B. Bradford, Esq., United States Vice Consul-General.

Mr. SEWARD writes as follows with reference to the discussion upon the Chinese labour question, which, as we recently mentioned, has taken place at Peking:—

Mr. Seward to Mr. Fish.

No. 95.]

United States Legation,

Peking, June 29, 1876. (Received Aug. 25.)

Sir,—I have the honour to advise you that I paid a visit yesterday to the Ministers of the Foreign-office.

The conversation about the Chinese in California was a long and frank one. I mentioned briefly the difficulties which are experienced there; as, for instance, their competition in the labour markets; their isolation from our people, as a result of differences of origin, speech, customs, &c.; their immoralities, consequent upon the lower grade of society from which they originate, and the absence of women; their inadequate regard for sanitary conditions, &c. I assured them of the benevolence of our Government and people, and an indisposition to allow unjust discriminations to be made against any classes resident within our borders. I took occasion to dwell strongly upon the need which they have to establish their proposed legation at Washington, and the almost greater occasion for a consulate at San Francisco. They met what I said with the simple statements that our people ought not to complain if theirs were more skillful in certain avocations; that they had heard of the agitation; that they would despatch Chen Lan Pin to establish the mission at Washington soon; that they would bear in mind what I had said about the need of a consulate at San Francisco, and that they must look to our Government to protect their people. This latter point they reiterated, not unpleasantly, several times during the discussion. They seemed to feel confident that this protection would be extended, and expressed the wish that their countrymen might be treated as well everywhere as we treat them.

It is fortunate, I think, that I introduced this discussion. This will be the better understood when I call attention to a despatch on the subject which they have sent to me to-day, a copy of which I inclose herewith. It may be that they would not have sent it had I not spoken first, and given them, in doing so, a certain assurance of our disposition to deal frankly and fairly with the matter. In such case the grievance would have been alluded to first, probably, at some moment when the grievances of our people here were under discussion. But it may be that they would have sent their letter irrespective of my remarks. The

fact that I have spoken first is seen to be fortunate, then, whichever alternative they had followed. Our readiness in the matter can only be construed by them in a way favourable to us.

Having already dealt so fully with the business, I shall do no more in replying to the Prince than to refer to the conversation at the Yamen, and state that I have sent the correspondence to you for instructions.

I recognise the peculiar difficulty and delicacy of this matter, and trust that my course will seem to you discreet.—I have, &c.,
GEORGE F. SEWARD.

DEPUTATION TO THE CHINESE ENVOYS.

ON Saturday, the 17th inst., a deputation, consisting of members of the Anti-Opium Society and the friends and supporters of that Association, waited by appointment upon their Excellencies Kwo and LIU, the Chinese Envoys, to express their views with reference to the Opium traffic. Among those present were the Earl of SHAFTESBURY, Sir JAMES KENNAWAY, M.P., Sir WILFRID LAWSON, M.P., Messrs. ALEXANDER MCARTHUR, M.P., HENRY RICHARD, M.P., F. W. CHESSON, J. W. PEARSE, Professor LEONI LEVI, J. G. TALBOT, M.P., MARK STEWART, M.P., SAMUEL MORLEY, M.P., JOHN HOLMS, M.P., W. H. JAMES, M.P., SAMUEL GURNEY, M.P., DONALD MATHESON, Sir ARTHUR COTTON, Rev. Dr. LEGGE (Professor of Chinese at Oxford), Major-General ALEXANDER, Sir FRANCIS LYCETT, Professor DOUGLAS (of the British Museum), Professor SHELDON AMOS, Rev. Mr. MOULE, Rev. HENRY WRIGHT (of the Church Missionary Society), Rev. Mr. MORGON (of the Christian Missionary Society), &c., &c.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, on introducing the deputation, said that it was formed of members and friends of the Anti-Opium Society, who desired to avail themselves of the opportunity to explain to their Excellencies the desire which was felt in this country to see an end to the evils connected with the use of Opium. They were fully aware of the difficulties connected with the Opium question, but they wished to express their views and (if they would be good enough to give them) to hear their Excellencies' ideas with regard to the position of the matter in China. They were also aware of the great difficulties which had arisen between England and China on this subject, and were anxious that some understanding might be come to with regard to it which would tend to the preservation of peace between them. He hoped that their Excellencies would be pleased to reply to the remarks in the same spirit in which they were addressed to them.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY then read the following statement:—

To their Excellencies the Envoys from the Imperial Court of China, Kuo, Chief-Minister, &c., &c., and Liu, Assistant Ambassador, &c., &c.

Before referring to the immediate purpose of this deputation, we have much pleasure in availing ourselves, as British subjects, of this opportunity of welcoming their Excellencies the Chinese Ministers to the British metropolis. Appearing amongst us as Representatives of a great Empire, whose literature and civilisation descend from remote antiquity, whose vast area and multitudinous population make it still one of the most important factors of humanity, the arrival of the Chinese Ministers in the capital of Great Britain is an event of the highest interest. In his Excellency Kuo we rejoice to welcome one whose tenure of important offices in his native land marks his fitness for his present responsible post; and we have special pleasure in recalling the fact that his Excellency, in a time of difficulty and danger, had the moral courage to recommend peaceful counsels to the Throne when others were precipitating China into a disastrous contest. Believing as we do that the unhappy differences between the two countries in past times have been largely attributable to mutual ignorance, we regard with great satisfaction the establishment of this Embassy as a step towards the attainment of a more complete intercommunication of idea between the respective nations, and trust that the relations henceforth subsisting between China and England will be peaceful and mutually beneficial.

In approaching the special subject with which this deputation is charged, we beg to point out to their Excellencies that the Anti-Opium Society was formed solely with the desire of abolishing a traffic which we believe to be seriously injurious both to China and Great Britain. Its formation was due to the conviction that the use of opium, otherwise than as a medicine, is morally and physically pernicious, and that the spread of the habit of opium-smoking in China is a fact for which we unhappily cannot disclaim national responsibility.

During the past forty years repeated efforts have been made to induce the British Legislature to take some action against the Indian opium trade, but these attempts have been always encountered by doubts as to the sincerity of the Chinese Government in their hostility to the traffic. It is said that the Chinese people must like the drug, and find it suits them, or they would not consume it in such vast quantities, that the Government is not consistent in its protests against the importation of opium, while the edicts against its consumption and the cultivation of the poppy are allowed to remain almost a dead letter.

We should, therefore, be glad to hear their Excellencies' opinion, for

the information of the British public, whether opium-smoking is really so baneful, and its progress so great a national calamity as we believe it to be; and whether the intelligent and respectable classes in China generally coincide in this opinion.

In conclusion, we beg to assure their Excellencies of our profound regret that the opium trade should have been in the past an occasion (among others), of provoking hostilities between their nation and our own, of our sincere desire that the great Chinese people may not succumb to the fascinating influence of a ruinous vice; and our earnest hope that some means may be discovered whereby Great Britain and China may unite in a mutual effort for the suppression of the trade.—We have the honour to be, &c., &c.

Mr. MARK STEWART, M.P., then rose, and said that he took this opportunity of expressing the satisfaction he felt at being among those who came to present this memorial to the Representatives of the great Empire of China, and to express the regret which was felt in this country at the causes of dispute which ended in the Treaties of Nanking and Tientsin. They (the deputation) trusted that we had now entered upon more peaceable relations, and that good might come of this meeting, both to China and to this country. They believed that great harm had been done to China through the Opium traffic, and they believed further that the blame of the first importation of that drug into China rested with this country, and it was their desire to try and make such redress as was possible at this rather late moment. This country had sanctioned the trade and manufacture of Opium, and the deputation felt we were in a great measure responsible for the evil effects of the same. He assured their Excellencies that they wished their country well, and were desirous to assist in any way they could, as a Society, to eliminate this great evil. They considered the trade in every way bad and highly immoral. They believed there was a strong feeling to this effect in this country generally, and they were ready to protest on such grounds. They felt—and had had proof on many occasions of such a feeling through all grades of society in this country—that it was to be regretted that such a difficulty should exist between two great countries, and that we had imported much misery into the great Chinese nation by the Opium trade. They held that this trade should not, at least, be allowed on any consideration to go on increasing; but that they should do all in their power to cause it to become greatly diminished. At the same time, there were, no doubt, great difficulties. We now export many millions worth of Opium to China, and the trade having become established its abolition would, the Indian Government felt, be attended with financial difficulties. They also learnt from reliable witnesses—and upon this point were especially anxious to hear their Excellencies' opinion—that there had been a great increase in the poppy cultivation throughout China. In almost every district, they were told, Opium was smoked by many people, and even by officials, and some of high rank in the country. While such things lasted, it would be difficult to bring about any solution of the question, and the deputation were anxious to lay before their Excellencies what they thought on this point. They felt that without material concord between the Chinese Government and England their best efforts would be practically fruitless. They had been told that the difficulties were in a considerable degree due to want of co-operation on the part of China in stopping the trade, and they were desirous of being informed by their Excellencies whether there was a real desire on the part of the Chinese Government to co-operate with ours to put it down; because it would be completely futile and vain for us to call upon the Indian Government to withdraw from permitting the trade unless the Chinese Government were equally anxious at least to withdraw from the increase if not to diminish the cultivation of the poppy.

This address was translated by one of the Chinese attachés.

Dr. LEGGE (in the Chinese language) expressed his great satisfaction in welcoming the Embassy, because a long residence in the East had taught him to respect the Chinese, and to wish that there were a thoroughly good understanding and true alliance of friendship between England and China. The Anti-Opium Society deprecates the use of opium in China. He himself had been familiar with its evil effects. He acknowledged England's fault in pressing the sale of opium on China, but the difficulty of securing a change of policy was the growth of the poppy in China. He had with his own eyes seen hundreds of poppy fields

in Shantung. "We want to know," he continued, "from your Excellency whether the Chinese Government is ready and able to prevent this. People here say that the evil effects of opium are exaggerated; and we desire to hear your Excellency's opinion on this point. We shall do everything we can to remove this terrible evil, but it is of little use for us to act unless the Chinese Government is prepared to take strong measures."

H.E. KWO then replied, his remarks being interpreted by Dr. MACARTNEY, English Secretary of Legation, as under:—

H.E. considered the deputation of great importance in regard to the welfare of China. They asked whether the Chinese looked upon the introduction of Opium as an evil. No doubt they did, and a very great one, and the Chinese Government was perfectly sincere in its desire to put a stop to the use of the drug (cheers); but it was a subject surrounded by many difficulties. In a country so large as China there was almost more difficulty in touching such an evil as Opium-smoking than there would be in putting down the use of alcohol in this country, and it was much less easy to induce a reform when once the habit had got a hold on its victim. The Chinese Government were extremely anxious to see an end to the consumption of Opium and to the Opium trade; but unless they were assisted not only by England but by other countries any steps that might be taken would not be sufficient to attain the end in view. The Ambassador had just received despatches from China, in which it was stated that the Dutch in Sumatra and people in other places were commencing the cultivation of the poppy; and consequently if England were to give it up, the trade would simply fall into the hands of other countries. To attain the end in view it was therefore necessary that an arrangement should be entered into, not only with this country, but with all countries where Opium was likely to be produced. This was a matter which was at present being looked into, and this difficulty was the only serious check upon some measure being adopted. Now that the Chinese Government had taken the step of sending Envoys to England, and intended sending representatives to other countries, it was not likely that the people would remain at home, but would spread over the world, and if they continued to indulge in the vice of Opium-smoking would spread it with them. It was, therefore, important to take steps to stamp it out. The Envoys were fully persuaded that no consideration of revenue would stand in the way of the English Government's putting a stop to the production of Opium in India, if they were really persuaded that doing so would have the desired effect of putting an end to the use of the drug; but, if it did not have this result, China would derive no benefit from it, while the Indian Government would suffer considerably. His Excellency would take steps to inform his Government of the views expressed by the deputation; and it would afford him great pleasure to be the means of bringing those who had the like views upon the matter and were of kindred spirit into communication with each other.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY having thanked their Excellencies for the courteous reception which had been accorded, the deputation withdrew.

TONKING.

The following particulars with reference to the newly-opened ports in Tonking, which we have received from an official source, are of much value in the present incipient state of the trade:—

Hai-Phong, the principal port of Tonking, is not a regular trading mart, but only a depot, where river junks come alongside vessels to load and unload merchandise. The actual markets are further inland, and the chief of them are Hanoi, Nam-Dinh, Hung-yen, and Hai-Duong. Hai-Phong may perhaps supplant them in the future if other ports, presenting greater advantages, be not opened to European commerce. But any such change can only take place after some time, as it will not be easy to go against established trading habits.

The value of declared goods shipped or landed at Hai-Phong from the opening of the port (15th September, 1875) to the 30th September, 1876, amounted, including specie and opium, to £8,500,000, as follows:—

Imports	£5,000,000
Exports	3,500,000

These returns are below the real value of exchanges, as the Customs officials have been very liberal in their estimates of

merchandise in order to encourage trade—£10,000,000 would still be under the actual value.

During the period mentioned above (15th September, 1875, to 30th September, 1876) the port of Hai-Phong had shipping to the amount of 26,395 tons, thus composed:—

ARRIVALS.		
30 European vessels (united tonnage)	...	10,513
144 Chinese junks (do. do.)	...	3,284
		13,797

DEPARTURES.		
26 European vessels (united tonnage)	...	9,400
139 Chinese junks (do. do.)	...	3,198
		12,598

China monopolises almost all the exports from Tonking, but is far from importing as much to that country.

England and our colonies imported to Tonking in 1875-76 goods to the amount of £15,254,000, as follows:—

Spun cotton	£131,021
Cotton textures	43,882
Woolen	8,787
Opium	75,931

Common chinaware, silk for embroidering, and tea are the chief Chinese imports to Tonking.

The principal exports from Hai-Phong are rice, dried vegetables, and cu'nau (false gambier), a tubercle used for dyeing, and which the Chinese employ as we do gambier, cachou, and ankino.

Merchandise comprised under the denomination of medicines occupies an important place in the list of exports. During the year 1875-76 Hai-Phong shipped £41,189 worth to Hong Kong.

Woollen goods are not easily disposed of, although the climate is severe in winter; the inhabitants of Tonking making use of warm and thick but very cheap cotton clothing, similar to that used by the Chinese.

Tonking is capable of furnishing large quantities of raw silk; and the export dues upon this produce being very moderate we may expect that this branch of trade will increase considerably. The defective mode of winding employed by the natives renders this silk difficult of sale upon European markets, but it is to be hoped that sooner or later the Tonkingese will adopt an improved method, or perhaps even the cheapness of raw material and of labour might induce Europeans to start spinning-mills at the open ports.

The imports most in demand are spun cotton and cotton textures, opium, chinaware, and medicines, glass and iron ware, haberdashery, and cheap perfumery. We observe that two or three European firms have already been established both at Hai-Phong and Hanoi.

Monetary and Commercial.

We understand that in view of the approaching opening of the Tea Season large insurance policies have been effected already in Lloyd's and the London offices, at rates which indicate a reduction in premiums to the established China offices, who have had almost a monopoly of this business. The rates adopted are 70s. from Hankow, 60s. from Shanghai or Foochow, and 50s. from Canton waters, subject to a deduction of 20s. in the case of mail steamers, and 15s. for steamers of Holt's and the Glen Line.

We gave in our last a list of the steamers for the new Season's Tea, and it will be observed that the P. and O. Company do not intend to enter any extra or special steamers. This will to some extent reduce the racing element, but considerable interest is evinced in the movements of two very fine new steamers of the Castle and Glen lines which have recently left London for Hankow, and are expected to be the first in the London market. The *Loudoun Castle*, which has already accomplished the voyage to Hong Kong in less than forty days, including all stoppages, and the *Glencairles*, which has reached Gibraltar after a passage of less than four and a half days from the docks, promise to prove formidable rivals to the vessels of the old established Ocean Steamship Company.

In the Produce Markets the dull feeling which has of late prevailed continues, and most articles continue to exhibit a downward tendency. There has been an almost entire cessation of business in Coffee, owing to an unfavourable result of the Dutch Trading Company's sale. Sugar is extremely flat, and large offers of China kinds in public sale have been for the most part bought in. Gambier, Manila, Hemp, and Straits Tin are lower in value. There is some demand for Pepper, but little is offered at the low rates now current.

The feeling in the Tea market during the current week has been rather worse than better, as compared with last, the despondency having increased, and a general disposition become manifest to force sales, in consequence of which large quantities have been offered without reserve at Auction. Common Con-

gous, however, have maintained their rates, though the better grades have generally sold at lower prices. The weekly sales of one firm, which ordinarily adopts the plan of offering its teas without reserve, continue to exert a very depressing influence upon the market.

The quantity of tea delivered from the bonded warehouses in London last week was 3,467,808 lbs., a decrease of 2½ per cent. on the preceding week. Of this total 2,220,993 lbs. was for home consumption; 631,181 lbs. was removed coastwise; 402,349 lb. was exported; 201,008 lb. was sent coastwise for exportation, and 3,277 lbs. was for ships' stores. During the same period the duty received was £55,525, or an increase on the previous week of about 1½ per cent. The following were the quantities of the other principal dutiable articles withdrawn from the warehouses during week:—Coffee, 573,358 lbs.; cocoa 131,418 lbs.; tobacco, 351,010 lbs.; cigars, 15,452 lbs.; wine 165,227 gallons; brandy, 31,323 gallons; and rum, 30,488 gallons.

In the Silk market the feature of the week has been the advance from Lyons of a slightly better tone there; but notwithstanding this, business has continued flat. As yet no reliable information is obtainable as to the prospects of the European crop.

The imports of China Sugar for some time past have been unusually important, and the following statement exhibits the total arrivals from Jan. 1 to the present date:—

Onward	...	Hong Kong	...	bags	7,700
Fleure Castle	...	Shanghai	...		6,125
Golden Spur	...	Hong Kong	...		8,779
Edmund Gessier	...	Formosa	...		7,484
British Crown	...	Hong Kong	...		5,897
Ingeborg	...	Swatow	...		7,500
Duke of Abercorn	...	Hong Kong	...		21,103
Silver Eagle	...	Hong Kong	...		10,000
Corea and Kermalo	...	Hong Kong	...		17,154
Soteria	...	Hong Kong	...		9,648
Clacknacuiddin	...	Hong Kong	...		1,491
Adelina and Marianne	...	Formosa	...		5,446
Marco Polo	...	Swatow	...		6,385
Ascalon	...	Hong Kong	...		10,408
Univers	...	Swatow	...		7,250
Parry	...	Hong Kong	...		3,584
M. Brockleman	...	Hong Kong	...		7,550
Joachim Christian	...	Hong Kong	...		8,306
Henriette Behn	...	Swatow	...		12,268
Fasan	...	Hong Kong	...		6,000
Nishon	...	Hong Kong	...		10,181
Via Marseilles, about	...		...		17,000
Total	...		...		197,239

The Chairman of the Agra Bank, at the annual meeting of the shareholders on the 20th inst., made some valuable remarks with reference to the question of Indian exchanges, which has attracted so much attention during the past year, and has had so much influence upon banking and exchange operations. He gave some very important facts in connection with this subject. In the first place, it is clear that the probable production of the Californian and Mexican mines has been much exaggerated, it having been overlooked that they produce gold as well as silver; secondly, the demonetisation of the German silver currency is a cause which, powerful as it is while it lasts, is yet of a temporary character; and lastly a low rate of exchange in India has been induced during the past two years partly by over remittance from this side in proportion to the export trade from India and partly by the peculiar financial operations of the India Council. Taking these facts into consideration, Mr. Thomson is not inclined to believe that any permanent difficulties can arise from the depreciation of silver, upon which so much has been said and written. The report of the Bank, which was unanimously adopted, showed that there was an available net surplus of £98,752. This was appropriated to a payment of the dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (in addition to the interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., per annum paid in October last), and in apportioning £40,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £120,000, leaving a balance of £4,414 to be carried forward.

The meeting of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China is called for the 18th proximo. The meetings of the Oriental Bank Corporation and of the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China are fixed for the 19th prox.

The directors of the Indo-European Telegraph Company have decided to recommend to their proprietors the payment of a dividend for the half-year ending 31st December last at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. The distribution for the corresponding six months in 1875 was at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The report of the Credit Foncier de Mauritius (Limited) states the net profit for 1876 at £26,057 3s. 8d. A dividend of 17s. 6d. is now proposed, making 15 per cent. for 1876.

The German Union Telegraph Company of Berlin have declared a dividend of £1 3s. 4d. per share; and the Hamburg-Helgoland Telegraph Company a dividend of 19s. per share, both payable on May 1.

The dividend of the London Assurance Corporation for the half-year ending the 25th inst. will be 45s. per share, or the same as for the corresponding period in the previous year.

The Council drafts on India have found buyers at a consider-

able reduction (about 3½ per cent.) on the rates current last week. On Calcutta 10 lacs were allotted at an average of 1s. 8.56d., and on Bombay 7½ lacs at an average of 1s. 8.58d. Applicants at 1. 8.9-16d. for bills on Calcutta will receive in full, and at 1s. 8½d. for telegraphic transfer, and 1s. 8.9-16d. for bills on Bombay about 75 per cent.

Early in the week the Silver market was flat and unsettled, the Indian and China exchanges coming lower. Bar Silver was sold at 53½d. per oz., showing a fall of 1½d. Since the allotment of the Indian Council Bills the market became firmer, and transactions have been effected at an advance, viz., at 53½d. per oz. A parcel of Mexican dollars has been disposed of at 53½d. per oz.

The amount of bullion per P. and O. steamer *Khedive*, from Southampton on the 22nd inst., was:—In gold to Galle, £185; in silver, £75,000; to Penang, £48,600; to Hong Kong, £51,258; to Shanghai, £32,335; total in silver, £207,193.

BULLION AND EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS.

Bar Gold	...	77/9½ to 77/10	—	per oz. std.
United States Gold Coin	...	76s. 3d.	—	per oz.
German Gold Coin	...	76s. 3½d.	—	per oz.
Bar Silver, Fine	...	4s. 5½d.	—	per oz. std.
Bar Silver contg. 5 grs. Gold	...	4s. 5½d.	—	do.
Mexican Dollars	...	4s. 5½d.	—	per oz.
Spanish Dollars (Carolus)	...	—	—	per oz.
Five Franc Pieces	...	—	—	per oz.

DOCUMENTARY AND PRIVATE BILLS.

	60 d/s.	30 d/s.	Demand.
Colombo	1/8½	1/8½	1/8½
Singapore	3/9	3/9½	3/9½
Hong Kong	3/9	3/9½	3/9½
Shanghai	5/1	5/1½	5/1½

The following Joint-Stock Companies (Limited) have been registered during the past week:—

Anti-Lithon Composition—Capital £10,000, in £25 shares.
Blackpool Printing—Capital £3,000, in £1 shares.
Cardiff Land and House Investment Corporation—Capital £50,000, in £5 shares.
Cambrian Granite—Capital £15,000, in £10 shares.
Dulais Merthyr Colliery and Brick—Capital £15,000, in £10 shares.
Emmens and Co. (Financial Agents)—Capital £25,000, in £1 shares.
Ferdinand Livingstone and Co. (cigar merchants)—Capital £1,200, in £5 shares.
James Anderson and Co. (bankers and East India merchants)—Capital £50,000, in £10 shares.
Leeds Confectionery—Capital £10,000, in £10 shares.
Liverpool and London Guarantee and Accident Assurance—Capital £100,000, in £1 shares.
Low Fell and Newcastle-upon-Tyne Omnibus—Capital £2,000, in £2 shares.
Manorial Mill Spinning—Capital £120,000, in £5 shares.
Marseilles and Continental Recreation—Capital £25,000, in £1 shares.
Peterborough Mortgage—Capital £50,000, in £10 shares.
Peterborough Land—Capital £50,000, in £10 shares.
Stockport Fruit Preserving—Capital £15,000, in £5 shares.
South London Stores—Capital £20,010, in £2 and 2s. shares.
St. Paul's Mill—Capital £3,000, in £300 shares.
Tuck and Co. (India Rubber Merchants)—Capital £40,000, in £50 shares.
Tyneside Engine Works—Capital £5,000, in £100 shares.
Vacluse Building—Capital £8,340, in £17 shares.
Vineberg Copper Mining—Capital £100,000, in £2 shares.
West Riding Mutual Fire Insurance (Guaranteed and Limited)—Capital £10,000, in £5 shares.

A petition presented to the Court of Chancery for winding up the Native Guano Company (Limited) has been withdrawn. Vice-Chancellor Malins decided that, as the company was able to pay its debts, and as a majority of the shareholders still believed in its success, the petitioner must pay the costs.

The facts of the foreign commerce of the United States are succinctly and lucidly presented in the following table, showing how the exports have compared with the imports for the last eight years:—

	SINCE THE PANIC.		Excess of Exports.
	Imports.	Exports.	
1876	\$461,092,000	\$646,976,000	\$185,884,000
1875	525,800,000	589,800,000	64,000,000
1874	577,400,000	642,600,000	65,200,000
	BEFORE THE PANIC.		Excess of Imports.
1873	\$589,300,000	\$566,800,000	\$22,500,000
1872	634,000,000	515,100,000	118,900,000
1871	589,000,000	537,800,000	52,100,000
1870	486,000,000	484,400,000	2,300,000
1869	463,400,000	393,700,000	69,700,000

The figures in the export column are quite unprecedented, for those of 1874 were larger than ever before, yet those of 1876 were more than four millions higher, including specie, and nearly twenty-one millions higher in merchandise alone, while the excess of exports over imports was no less than \$120,000,000 higher.

Applications are invited before the 10th proximo by the Union Bank of Australia for £65,000 in 6 per cent. mortgage debentures of the Oamara (New Zealand) Harbour Board, repayable by drawings on the accumulative principle, at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum, commencing in December, 1879.

BANK AND MISCELLANEOUS SHARES.

Shares.		Paid.	Closing Prices.
JOINT-STOCK BANKS.			
410	Agra...	All	11½ to 11¾
25	Bank of Egypt...	All	30 to 31
20	Chartered of India, Aust., and China...	All	19½ to 20½
25	Chartered Merc. of India and China...	All	19½ to 20½
20	City...	All	14½ to 15
100	Colonial...	All	58 to 60
500fr.	Comptoir D'Escompte de Paris...	All	680 fr.
428½	Hong Kong and Shanghai...	All	30 to 32
50	Imperial...	All	17 to 18
50	London and County...	All	62 to 63
50	London Joint-Stock...	All	49 to 50
100	London and Westminster...	All	64 to 65
25	Oriental...	All	44 to 45
50	Union of London...	All	41 to 42
TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.			
10	Eastern Extension Australia and China...	All	7 to 7½
10	Eastern Telegraph...	All	7 to 7½
10	Great Northern...	All	7½ to 7¾
25	Indo-European...	All	20 to 21
10	Mediterranean Extension...	All	2½ to 3
12	Telegraph Construction Company...	All	26½ to 27½
25	India-rub., Guitta-perc., & Teleg. Works...	All	22½ to 23½
8	Reuter's...	All	13 to 13½
INSURANCE COMPANIES.			
100	Alliance Marine...	25	20 to 22
20	British and Foreign Marine...	4	9½ to 10½ pm.
50	Commercial Union...	5	13½ to 13¾ pm.
20	Globe Marine...	4	4 to 4½ dir.
50	Home and Colonial Marine...	5	
10	Imperial Marine...	3	
20	London and Provincial Marine...	2	1½ to 1¾ pm.
10	Merchants' Marine...	2	2 to 1½ dir.
50	North British and Mercantile...	6½	49 to 50
25	Ocean Marine...	5	7½ to 8½
20	Thames and Mersey...	2	8½ to 9½
50	Union Marine, Liverpool...	5	7½ to 7¾
20	Universal Marine...	5	8½ to 9½
TEA COMPANIES.			
50	Assam...	20	70 to 73
20	British Indian...	All	6½ to 7
20	Darjeeling...	All	17½ to 18½
10	Eastern Assam...	All	5½ to 6½
20	Jorchant, Limited...	All	5½ to 57
10	Leibong...	All	11 to 13
10	Upper Assam...	All	6½ to 6¾
MISCELLANEOUS COMPANIES.			
20	Ceylon...	10	10½ to 9½ dia
20	Do...	5	
20	Colonial...	20	11 to 9 dia
10	Hong Kung and China Gas...	All	18½ to 19½
10	International Finance...	5	2½ to 2¾ dia
25	National Discount...	5	10 to 10½
500fr.	Messageries Maritimes of France...	All	64½ fr.
450	P. and O. Steam...	All	38 to 40
50	Do...	10	9 to 7 dia
100	Royal Mail Steam...	60	52 to 55
402fr.	Suez Canal...	—	71½ fr.
498	Japan Loan, 9 per cent...	All	105 to 108
99½	Do... 7 per cent...	All	103 to 105
100	Chinese Imperial Loan of 1874, 8 per cent...	All	101 to 101½ x.d.

ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

TEA.

Messrs. Arthur Capel and Co.'s Circular says:—There is very little change to notice in our market this week. The low prices of common to good common Black and Red-leaf has led to a better demand for them, and both at auction and by private contract a slight advance has been obtained. All the better kinds meet only with a slow sale at about previous prices. Green Teas are very dull, the large quantities printed for sale being more than the Trade want, whilst export demand is very limited. Scented Teas are heavy of sale. The demand for Indian Teas has also materially slackened, and prices have generally given way. Congous.—Red-leaf kinds: Siftings remain firm; common have sold from 7d. to 7½d., fair to good common from 7½d. to 8½d., fair kinds from 8d. to 10½d. per lb., being a shade dearer; good to fine from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 7d. were much as last week; finest remain firm, being now in a small compass. Pak-lin kinds show no alteration. Black-leaf kinds: Common to good common have sold from 7½d. to 8½d. per lb., being slightly firmer prices; fair kinds from 9d. to 11d. are relatively cheap; fair to good medium sold from 11½d. to 1s. 2d., good kinds from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5d., fine from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d., showing no change in prices on the week. New-make kinds: Common remain as before; fair kinds from 9d. to 11d. per lb., have been in favour of buyers; good from 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 4d. have met with more demand at previous prices. Oolongs are difficult of sale; common to fair have sold, at auction, from 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 2½d. per lb., and fine Formosa only realised 1s. 5d. to 1s. 5½d. per lb. Souchongs: Common sold at public sale from 8d. to 10d. per lb., fair 10½d. to 11d. per lb., and good from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6½d. per lb., being about previous prices. Scented Teas: Canton Capers are dull of sale; common show no change in prices; fair to good are only saleable at low prices. Orange Pekoes remain much as last week. Foochow Capers are much as before. Orange Pekoes are well supported, anything with quality realising full prices. Green Teas are in over supply and are selling at declining prices; common to fair kinds are now at a very low range; about 1,700 packages were sold at auction, and about 4,500 packages are advertised for sale without reserve. The public sales have been rather smaller, comprising 17,655 packages, the whole of which have been sold without reserve. The deliveries for the week, as compared with last year, are as follows, viz.:—

	1877.	1876.
	lbs.	lbs.
Home Consumption ...	2,220,069	2,086,172
Coastwise... ..	580,864	753,085
Exports	609,013	1,173,253
	3,409,946	4,012,460

SILK.

The market has been very flat during the week, and although transactions have not been done on a lower basis, still the absence of business has a depressing effect on the trade. The approach of the Easter holidays keeps manufacturers from buying just now, or we might possibly feel the effect of the slight improvement advised from the Lyons market; as it is, we shall have now to wait till the second week of April for business, and then we shall begin to talk of the prospects of the European crops. Deliveries are not good.

COFFEE.

Early in the week large supplies of Plantation Ceylon at auction went off with less competition, and prices of grey kinds declined 6d., good colour being about sustained. Subsequently, however, up to the 20th inst. there was more inquiry, and the decline above noted was recovered. The large Dutch sale held on the 20th having gone off about ¼ cent below valuations, good ordinary Java selling equal to about 86s. 6d. per cwt., this market was rather unfavourably influenced, and the supplies at auction on the 21st were all bought in. Up to and including the 20th inst. 986 casks, 104 tierces, 121 barrels, and 373 bags Plantation Ceylon were sold as follows:—Triage at 84s. to 95s. 6d., com. grey to colour small at 97s. to 101s., low middling at 102s. to 104s. 6d., middling at 105s. to 107s., good middling to fine middling at 107s. 6d. to 110s., bold at 111s. to 116s., pea-berry at 111s. 6d. to 114s. 6d. Of Native Ceylon 740 bags sold, small and broken at 74s., ordinary at 81s., good ordinary at 82s. 6d., pea-berry at 89s. Of other East India the sales have been 90 bags pale Manila sold at 83s., and of 974 bags ordinary Singapore offered, 200 bags sold at 71s. 6d. to 72s. 6d. per cwt. Privately 800 bags good ordinary Native Ceylon have been sold at 82s. 6d., with a few fine ordinary bold at 84s.

The Dutch Trading Company's public sale of 104,834 bags Java held on the 20th inst. in Rotterdam went off at about ¼ cent below valuations, but improved towards the close, good ordinary selling at 52 to 52½ cents against 52½ to 53½ cents at February sale.

CHINA TALLOW.—Of 24 casks offered 3 casks fair sold at 39s. 6d.

CUTCH AND CAMPHOR.—No business done.

CANES.—77,400 Manila sold at ½d., with damaged ¾d. each.

COTTON.—The market has been very dull, with a moderate business, chiefly in American, at lower rates. Closing quotations:—Tinnevely, 59-16d. to 51-16d.; Western, 55-16d. to 59-16d.; Northern, 5½d. to 5½d.; Coconada, 5½d. to 5½d.; Dhollerah, 5½d. to 55-16d.; Oomrawuttee, 53-16d. to 5½d.; Scinde, 4½d. to 5½d.; Bengal, 4½d. to 5½d.

COCOANUT OIL.—At the public sales little or no demand appeared, and 19 pipes Cochins were bought in at £42 as well as 200 casks Ceylon pipes at £36 10s., but some hogheads sold at £37. Privately fine Cochins rules at £42, but Ceylon in pipes is dull and cannot be quoted over £36 to £36 10s.; hogheads being scarce have been sold at £37.

COIR YARN.—At the weekly auctions there was less demand, and only about two-thirds of the quantity offered found buyers, ordinary and medium sorts at a fall of 20s. to 40s. per ton, but good Ceylon, of which there was a liberal supply, realised full prices, 30 bales sold, medium to good well made £30 to £35 10s., fine pale even £40 to £46 5s.; of 233 tons offered about 130 tons sold, low coarse red and grey £24 15s. to £26 5s., ordinary to good ordinary £26 15s. to £28, low medium to medium £29 to £30 15s., good medium to good £31 to £35 10s., fine even pale well made £36 15s. to £38, a few lots £40 to £43 5s.

CANTHARIDES.—Of 15 cases China offered 2 cases sold at 2s. 5d., the remainder small to bold being bought in at 2s. 5d. to 2s. 6d.

CARDAMOMS.—5 bags Ceylon sold, fair partly lean and part wormy at 4s. 4d., lean light and shelly 2s., and 2 cases ordinary slightly mouldy at 2s. 10d.

GAMBIER.—On the 16th inst., immediately after our last report prices again gave way, for arrival 250 tons, January-February shipment, being sold at 19s. ex ship, also 50 tons arrived at 19s. ex ship. On the 17th there was a better demand at this decline, and the following business was effected:—100 tons arrived at 19s. ex ship, for arrival 50 tons, near at hand, at 19s., and 100 tons, March-April shipment, at 19s. 4½d. ex ship all faults. On the 19th there was a steady inquiry at previous rates, and for arrival 100 tons, January sailing, sold at 19s., and 50 tons due at 19s., ex ship all faults. On the 20th of 544 bags pale Cubes 250 bags sold, good but rather blocky 29s. to 30s.

GUM BENJAMIN.—Of 160 cases offered 42 cases Sumatra seconds sold, good at £11 to £11 5s., good fair rather mixed with dark at £9 10s., grey £7 10s. to £7 12s. 6d., darker £6 5s., the remainder bought in at £8 10s., thirds at £5 5s. down to 70s. for common ditto.

GUM DAMER.—100 cases Batavian bought in at 77s. 6d.

HEMP.—About 500 bales Manila have been sold privately, fully fair to good fair at £27 10s. to £28 10s. At the fortnightly auctions a good supply was offered, but there was little demand except at a further decline, and only a small portion sold, prices being about 20s. per ton lower than the previous public sales. Of 2,767 bales about 550 bales sold at and after the sales, brown £25 5s. to £25 15s., good fair to good £27 to £28, good Boluzan kind £28 10s. to £28 15s., superior white Lupiz (2 bales) £91.

HIDES.—At the periodical public sales a few Singapore and Penang offered were only partly sold, without quotable alteration in price. China were in large supply; the demand was almost confined to the extreme weights (those under 8lb. and over 28lb. average), which realised previous values to 4d. per lb. advance, the intermediate weights, which comprise the bulk, being difficult of sale at fully 4d. per lb. decline. Singapore Buffalo sold fairly at rates slightly in favour of sellers. Of 27,878 China Ox and Cow offered 4,626 sold: light, average 11½ to 13 lb. 6½d.; heavy, average 17 to 18½ lb. 6½d. to 6¾d.; extra heavy, average 21½ to 31½ lb. 6½d. to 7d.; Kips and Skins, average 4½ to 8½ lb. 7½d. to 8½d.; thirds average 11½ to 14½ lb. 4½d. to 5½d. per lb., 5,989 Singapore buffalo offered 3,259 sold; fair to good, first heavy, average 33½ lb. 5½d.; second heavy, average 24½ lb. 4½d.; light, average 10½ lb. 6½d.; fair ordinary, first heavy, average 31 to 36½ lb. 5½d. to 5¾d.; second heavy, average 27 to 36½ lb. 4½d. to 4¾d.; light average 10½ to 11½ lb. 6d.; 3rds 4½d., per lb.

JAPAN WAX.—Of 50 boxes good bold squares offered 30 boxes sold at 43s. 6d.

JAPAN GINGER.—Of 35 cases small lined offered part sold at 35s.

KITOL FIBRE.—264 bundles (2 tons) Ceylon sold at 8½d. to 10d., good long 1s. 1½d. per lb.

MUSK.—Of 41 packages Tonquin 11 packages sold, pile 1, fair shaped with some skinny at 44s.; pile 2, hard genuine partly skinny 28s. to 27s.; pile 3 common and skinny 14s., wet pickings 26s.; 13 tins Grain bought in, ordinary to dark at 40s. to 50s., Nepal 45s., also 1 tin skins at 3s.

PEPPER.—Black: Rather more demand has appeared at the low prices recently accepted, at which there are now few sellers, and about 900 bags have been sold, Penang at 3½d. to 3 9-16d., Singapore at 3½d. to 3¾d. Only 347 bags were offered by auction, which went off as follows:—203 bags Penang sold at 3½d.; of 144 bags Singapore 100 bags damaged sold at 3½d. to 3¾d. White is slow of sale, and at auction prices were slightly in buyers' favour. Of 533 bags Singapore 470 bags sold, brownish at 6½d., fair at 6¾d., a few fine bold at 7½d., 70 bags Penang sold at 6½d. per lb.

RICE.—A quiet tone has prevailed in all positions, and scarcely any business has transpired. On the spot 6,000 bags old white Bengal have been sold at 10s. to 12s. 3d., and 1,000 bags old Necranie at 9s.

SAGO.—The rather large supply of 1,192 bags offered went off steadily, and 900 bags sold at firm rates, grey to fair small at 16s. to 16s. 6d., good small at 16s. 9d., fine medium at 20s. 6d. to 21s., middling large at 18s. 6d. to 19s., fine large at 20s. 6d. to 21s.

SPICES.—Business has again been very limited in extent. Cinnamon and Cassia: No sales. Cloves: 13 cases Penang of fresh import sold at 2s. 2½d. to 2s. 2¾d. Mace: 2 cases 21 boxes Penang were chiefly bought in at 2s. 3d., only 2 boxes pickings being sold at 10d. per lb. Nutmegs: No sales.

SUGAR.—Rather large supplies brought to auction have gone off flatly for all descriptions, particularly for a large quantity of China, which met offers only at a reduction of 1s., and was all withdrawn. The market is extremely dull, with only a limited business at 6d. to 1s. below the prices of last mail. Subjoined is a detailed record of the transactions in East India descriptions for the week. On the 15th inst., privately 4,000 bags China sold, brown date kind at 17s. 6d. On the 16th, in auction of 3,124 bags good China, from Marseilles, 757 bags sold, middling to fine brown at 22s. 6d. to 23s. 6d., yellow at 25s., the remainder bought in, brown at 23s. 6d. to 24s., yellow at 25s. to 26s. 6d. Privately, 11,500 bags brown China sold at 18s. 6d. to 19s. On the 19th, the floating cargo per G. V. Jordan, 3,200 baskets Java No 14½, sold at 31s. 3d. for France. On the 20th, the large supply of 23,944 bags China (about 1,300 tons) offered by auction met only lower offers, and was all bought in or withdrawn, ordinary to fair brown at 19s. to 20s., good and yellow at 23s. 6d. to 25s. 4,272 bags unclayed Manila were also withdrawn. After the sale 1,300 bags of the China sold, privately good strong Muscovado kind at 22s. 9d.

TAPIOCA.—240 bags Malacca sold, fair to good bold at 2½d. to 2¾d. and 20 bags Singapore at 2¾d. Pearl Tapioca: 307 bags medium, chiefly of old import, were bought in at 18s. 6d. to 19s. 6d., excepting 40 bags of fresh import, which sold at 18s. 6d. Tapioca Flour: 862 bags Singapore bought in at 1½d. to 2d.

TIN.—A steady tone has been exhibited, and Straits has changed hands at £71 on the spot, and £71 15s. March-April shipment. Closing quotations are Straits £71, Banca £74, Billiton £72.

ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

MANCHESTER GOODS.

Last week closed with the same very quiet feeling reported on the preceding market day. On the 19th inst. the increased sales of Cotton in Liverpool steadied the tone without improving the demand, and the market has since relapsed into the previous dullness. The inquiry in all departments has been exceedingly limited, and prices varying according to the position of sellers. It is only by the acceptance of the lowest prices that business can be effected, and at these rates the production cannot be sold. The continued decline in the Eastern exchanges adds to the perplexities and consequent caution of merchants. In the present condition of things buyers hold back as much as possible from new engagements. There have been more offers for some makes of Grey Shirtings suitable for China, but the limits named have been almost without exception too low to admit of transactions being carried through. Goods are easier in price, and as regards Yarns some spinners are pressing stocks for sale, but with little result. At the close there has been more inquiry for T-Cloths and Shirtings for China, and some business has been done at low rates.

METALS.

IRON.—Welsh: Rails, £5 10s. to £5 15s.; Bars, £6 5s. to £6 10s.;

Staffordshire Best: Bars, £7 10s. to £8; Nail Rods, £7 10s. to £8; Hoops, £8 10s. to £9 15s.; Sheets, £10 to £12; Scotch Pig, No. 1, £2 14s. to £3 4s.; Swedes, Bars, Hammered, £11 to £12; Swedes, Steel in kegs, ½ and ¾ in., £16 10s. to £17.

YELLOW METAL.—Sheets, 4 by 4 ft., 7½d.; Sheathing and Rods, 7½d. per lb.

TIN.—English Refined, £76 to £77. Tin Plates: Charcoal IC, per box, 22s. to 29s.; Coke, 18s. 6d. to 22s.

LEAD.—WB, £22; do., other brands, £21 5s. to £21 10s.; Spanish soft, ex ship, £21; Sheet, £22 to £22 10s.; Shot (kegs extra), £24 10s. to £24 15s.; White do., £28.

SPELTER.—Silesian, £20 15s.

QUICKSILVER.—In bottles of 75 lbs. each, £7 5s.

The market for Iron opened at 54s. 6d., and gradually gave way until 53s. 7½d. was accepted for several thousand tons. Subsequently the tone became stronger, and the closing value of Scotch Pig is 53s. 9d. Copper is dull. Small business in Chili Bars, good ordinary brands at £70 5s. to £70 7s. 6d. on the spot. Wallaroo quoted £77 and Burra £75 10s. to £76, English tough £76 to £78, best selected £77 to £79, strong sheets £82 to £83. Lead steady. English Pig £21 2s. 6d. to £21 10s. Spelter dull at £20 10s. for ordinary Silesian. Quicksilver £7 5s. firm.

WOOLLEN GOODS.—LONDON QUOTATIONS.

	s.	d.	
HH Long Ella ...	33	9	per piece Scarlet
HH Spanish Stripes ...	2	11	yard "
HH { Camlets ...	65	0	piece "
HH Lastings (6 reed) ...	52	0	" " Black
H Do. (5 reed) ...	46	0	" " "
HH China Figures ...	18	6	" " Black
H Do. do. ...	15	6	" " "
LL Do. do. ...	14	9	" " "

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	From	At
Mar 13	Tordenskjold	Andrea	Samarang	Copenhagen
14	Marie Becker	Kirchoff	Passarocang	Falmouth
14	Zodiac	Ramsdale	Samarang	Do.
14	Isabella Ridley	Gamon	Do.	Greenock
15	Henrietta Behn	Scaechtel	Swatow	London
15	Henri	Martel	Saigon	Do.
15	Freja (s.)	Johansen	Colombo	Do.
15	Kishon	McDonald	Hong Kong	Do.
15	Geisena Maria	Ridder	Batavia	Amsterdam
15	Meggie Dixon	Mann	Do.	Harre
15	Tenasserim (s.)	McKirdy	Rangoon	Liverpool
15	Alice	Shearer	Padang	New York
15	Denbighshire	Williams	Hong Kong	Do.
16	Queensbury	Herring	Do.	Do.
16	Lady Elizabeth	Cobbett	Shanghai	Do.
16	Star of the West	Gardiner	Manila	Do.
16	Aline	McBride	Java	Greenock
16	Leonie	Richards	Do.	Do.
16	Sir Jamsetjee Family	Cobb	Manila	London
16	Teodora	Caballero	Do.	Liverpool
16	Roma Capitale	Pons	Akyab	Falmouth
17	Broderne	Nilsen	Bangkok	Marseilles
17	Jupiter	Stokhnyzen	Pangool	Amsterdam
17	Gedeh	Halle	Macassar	Do.
17	Challenge	Sharp	Manila	New York
17	Sosgrk	Alm	Amoy	Do.
17	Ed. Gen. V. Swieten	Moerkken	Batavia	Rotterdam
18	Ottolina	Ouweland	Samarang	Do.
18	Maanyynph	Schnap	Batavia	Do.
18	County of Argyle	Strout	Sourabaya	Queensdown
18	Undaunted	Neile	Maulmein	Amsterdam
18	Annie Braginton	Smith	Swatow	London
18	Admiral	Werns	Bassein	Bremen
18	G. H. Betz	Hinterthur	Macassar	Amsterdam
19	Amstelstroom	Appel	Batavia	Do.
19	Norwood	Nattrass	Rangoon	Falmouth
19	Laura B. Burnham	Phillips	Batavia	Boston
20	Albuera	Harris	Manila	New York
21	Bussorah	Clapthor	Batavia	Falmouth
21	Antipodes	Bains	Hg. Kong, for Hambg	Falmouth
21	Gaucho	Crichton	Yokohama	Amsterdam
21	Johanna	Bonings	Manila	New York
21	Ocean Beauty	Seagrove	Cebu	Do.

DEPARTURES.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	For	From
Mar. 4	Hoidin	—	Anjer	New York
14	Clifton	Graham	Yokohama	Antwerp*
15	Wemyss Castle	Bridgman	Penang	London
15	Antwerp	Chambers	Hong Kong	Do.
15	Stad Amsterdam (s.)	Hoon	Shanghai	Do.
15	James Vincombe	Marshall	Anjer	Grimshytt
15	G. M. Adams	—	Singapore	Cardiff
15	Plevo	Strootman	Batavia	Amsterdam
16	Barbara	Roberts	Anjer	Sunderland
17	Scindia (s.)	Langley	Shanghai	London
17	Chica	Riquer	Manila	Barcelona
17	Donald Ferguson	Ross	Singapore	Cardiff
17	St. Andrew's Castle	Malcolm	Anjer	Liverpool
18	W. E. Gidstone	Galichan	Singapore	Swansea
18	Bessie Morris	France	Amoy	Do.
19	Victoria	Trimble	Hong Kong	Do.
19	Stad Middelburg	De Vries	Sourabaya	Flushing
19	Lady Hincks	—	Singapore	Shieldst
19	Janet Cowan	Campbell	Galle	Liverpool
19	C. W. Cochrane	Gibbon	Hong Kong	Do.

DEPARTURES—continued.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	For	From
19 Emma	Palm	Batavia	London	
20 Flamingo (s.)	Couche	Colombo	Do.	
20 Koning d. Nederl. (s.)	Bruyas	Batavia	Do.	
20 Springfield	—	Hong Kong	Cardiff	
20 Warrior	—	Do.	Do.	
20 George	Steffano	Do.	Do.	
20 Amaranth	—	Singapore	Do.	
20 Madura (s.)	Sprekel	Batavia	Southampton	
20 Verona	Wilson	Java	Hull	
21 Banton	Colvin	Singapore	Sunderland	
21 Sir William Wallace	Colville	Yokohama & Hiogo	London	

* Put back.

† After repairing.

See Shipping Postscript and Correspondents' Letters.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.

Date.	Steamer.	From	For
March 15	Argentino	London	China and Japan

SPOKEN.

JANET, Swatow to London, Feb. 13, 8.40 N., 26.50 W.
 CASTINE, Batavia to Falmouth, Dec. 25, 21.22 S., 72.51 E.
 PAULINE, Java to Amsterdam, Feb. 3, 13 S., 8.35 W.
 FLYING SPUR, London to Yokohama, Feb. 2, 1.2 N., 23.16 W.
 ADVANCE, Glasgow to Singapore, Feb. 8, 6.36 N., 25.33 W.
 HENRY MACKINTOSH, Swatow to London, Feb. 26, 31 N., 29 W.
 LOYOLA, Manila to Cadiz, Jan. 29, 14.22 S., 7.33 W.
 BALI, Batavia to Rotterdam, Feb. 11, 5.43 N., 25.4 W.
 ALBERT VICTOR, London to Shanghai, Feb. 6, 1 N., 24 W.
 MANTURA, Swatow to London, Jan. 25, 70 miles N.W. of St. Helena.
 ASTREA, Macassar to Amsterdam, Feb. 3, 3.40 N., 23.43 W.
 MALLARD, London to Singapore, Feb. 26, 1 S., 28 W.
 KITTY, Batavia to Amsterdam, Feb. 14, 9 N., 28 W.
 ELLA, Ilo Ilo, to Falmouth, Jan. 30, 30 S., 11.4 E.
 MOSS GLEN, Manila to New York, Feb. 2, 31.38 S., 14.40 E.
 CHLORIS, Cardiff to Antwerp, March 11, 48 N., 11 W.
 ANNIE MAIN, Glasgow to Singapore, Jan. 30, 10 S., 29 W.
 PHILIPS VAN MARNIX, Rotterdam to Samarang, March 17, 49 N., 4 W.
 ROBERT HENDERSON, Swansea to Hong Kong, March 3, 13 N., 25 W.
 MOLTKE, Cardiff to Singapore, Jan. 23, 3 N., 94 E.

CASUALTIES.

FLUSHING.—March 16, the barque Clifton, from Antwerp for Yokohama, was in collision last night with the Belgian ship Don Juan. The first lost bowsprit and yard, the second was towed up to Antwerp; damage unknown.

NEW YORK.—March 15, the Mary E. Russell, Nickerson, from Java to Boston, was spoken on the 7th March, in lat. 29 N., long. 70 W., with rigging very much damaged.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FALMOUTH.—March 19, the barque Norwood, from Rangoon, has arrived here with the master, Nattrass, sick with scurvy.

HAYRE.—March 15, accounts from St. Helena, by cable from Madeira, report that the French brig Brescia, Hunene, from Rangoon for this port, had completed her repairs and proceeded for her destination.

GIBRALTAR.—Passed, March 18, Gleneagles (str.), from London, for Shanghai.

ST. HELENA.—Arrived and proceeded, Feb. 15, Frederick, from Manila for Liverpool; passed, 8, Zeenymph; 9, Jonge Cornelius, both from Bali Straits, for Rotterdam; 14, Castine, from Batavia, for Falmouth; 22, Scotia, from Philippine Islands, for New York; 26, County of Berwick, from Java for Falmouth.

TABLE BAY.—Arrived, Feb. 17, John Bunyan, from Manila, for New York; 19, Gesina, from Bangkok, for Marseilles; 20, Rook, from Singapore, for New York; 21, Frederika, from Liverpool, for Penang; sailed, 17, Sjofroken, for Akyab; 19, Victoria; 20, Arion, both for Guam.

PORT ELIZABETH.—Feb. 23: On the 15th inst. the abandoned ship Othello was sold by auction, realising £400, as she now lies at anchor. With reference to the remainder of the cargo on board, consisting of 900 bags of damaged rice, it was notified that six days would be allowed to unload it, that it would be sold in bond, and that all rice brought on shore would be liable to a duty of 2s. 5d. per 100 lbs. The bidding started at £10, and ended at £132 10s. The stores, boats, &c., were then disposed of, and realised very fair prices. The Laura brig, Evans, sailed from this port on the 20th for Channel for orders, with 3,130 bags paddy rice, valued at £1,650, ex abandoned ship Othello, from Akyab.

ALGOA BAY.—Sailed, Feb. 22, Caranjah, for Manila.

LOADING.

At LONDON.—STEAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—For Singapore, Hong Kong, Yokohama, and Hiogo: Candia, Teviot, Elgin. For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Glenfinlas, Nankin.

SAILING VESSELS.—For Hiogo: Eme, Pauline. For Shanghai: Duke of Abercorn, Corea, Wigton. For Hong Kong: Commissary, Scindia, Kaisow, Melbrek, James Shepherd, Ferdinand Brumm. For Batavia: Valero, Edmund Gressier. For Singapore: Lochleven Castle. For Penang: Celeno. For Colombo: Pembrokehire.

At LIVERPOOL.—For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Ajax (str.), Priam (str.). For Batavia: Strassburg. For Singapore: Alice Ritson. For Amoy: Longfellow. For Galle: Neutau.

At GLASGOW.—For Shanghai: Isle of Erin. For Manila: Miako. For Sourabaya: Bellona. For Singapore: Cape Race, Huntly Castle. For Colombo: Ben Macdhui.

FREIGHTS AND CHARTERS.

Current Rates of Freight for Vessels on the Berth.

Per STEAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—To Yokohama: 50s. weight, 50s.

meast. To Hiogo: 50s. weight, 50s. meast. To Nagasaki: 60s. weight, 65s. meast. To Shanghai: 35s. weight, 37s. 6d. meast. To Hankow: 50s. weight, 50s. meast. To Hong Kong: 35s. weight, 37s. 6d. meast. To Singapore: 35s. weight, 35s. meast. To Penang: 35s. weight, 35s. meast. To Colombo: 30s. weight or meast. To Batavia: 60s. meast. To Samarang: 70s. meast. To Sourabaya: 70s. meast.

Per SAILING VESSELS.—To Yokohama: 30s. weight, 30s. meast. To Hiogo: 35s. weight or meast. To Shanghai: 30s. weight, 20s. meast. To Hong Kong: 25s. weight, 20s. meast. To Singapore: 22s. 6d. weight, 20s. meast. To Penang: 20s. weight, 20s. meast. To Batavia Samarang, and Sourabaya: 20s. to 25s. weight, 25s. to 30s. meast. To Colombo: 25s. weight, 22s. 6d. meast.

The current quotations for coal, &c., are as follows:—From Wear or Tyne, per keel.—To Yokohama: £30. To Shanghai: £30. To Hong Kong: £25. To Singapore: £23. To Penang: £23. To Colombo: £20. To Galle: £18. To Batavia and Sourabaya: £19.

From Newport, Cardiff, or Swansea, per ton.—To Yokohama: 30s. To Shanghai: 30s. To Hong Kong: 25s. To Manila: 25s. To Singapore: 22s. To Colombo: 20s. To Galle: 22s. To Batavia and Sourabaya: 23s.

From Birkenhead, per ton.—To Hong Kong: 22s. 6d. To Shanghai: 25s. To Singapore: 16s. To Batavia and Sourabaya: 18s. To Galle: 26s.

INSURANCE.

	Mails.				First-class steamer.				Sailing.						
	In Tar.		In Tin.	F.Pa.	In Tar.		In Tin.	F.Pa.	In Tin.		F.Pa.				
	s. d.	s. d.			s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.					
Penang	35	0	17	6	15	0	35	0	22	6	20	0	37	6	25
Singapore	35	0	17	6	15	0	40	0	27	6	25	0	40	0	35
Colombo	35	0	27	6	35	0	45	6	32	6	25	0	40	0	35
Hong Kong	35	0	27	6	35	0	45	6	32	6	25	0	40	0	35
Shanghai	40	0	32	6	30	0	50	0	37	6	30	0	45	0	40
Yokohama	40	0	32	6	30	0	50	0	37	6	30	0	45	0	40

GENERAL SHIPPING NEWS.

TYNE SHIPBUILDING.—Messrs. Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Company (Limited), at Jarrow, have in hand 6 twin screw iron gunboats—length 110 feet, breadth 34 feet, depth 9 feet 6 inches, 310 I.H.P., tonnage 220 gross; also a number of screw steamers of the following dimensions:—One 220+31+17, N.H.P. 98, tonnage 946 gross; one 250+33+23½, N.H.P. 150, tonnage 1,580 gross; one 250+33+23½, N.H.P. 130, tonnage 1,580 gross; one 230+32+20, N.H.P. 110, tonnage 1,170 gross; one 264½+34+24½, N.H.P. 140, tonnage 1,840 gross; one 230+31+17, N.H.P. 99, tonnage 1,080 gross; one 236+34½+24½, N.H.P. 175, tonnage 1,950 gross.

NEW STEAMER FOR THE BRITISH INDIA COMPANY.—On the 15th inst. there was launched from the building-yard of Messrs. William Denny and Brothers, Dumbarton, an iron screw-steamship for the British India Steam Navigation Company, which was named the Chanda. Length, 315 feet; breadth, 33 feet; depth, 26½ feet; gross register tonnage, 2,040 tons. Her engines, which are on the compound direct-acting principle, are 220-horse power nominal, the cylinders being 63 inches and 36½ inches diameter, and having a stroke of 45 inches.

RAPID PASSAGES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.—The Inman steamship City of Richmond, Captain R. Leitch, has just made two fine runs out and home across the Atlantic. Leaving Liverpool on February 14, she ran from Queenstown to New York in 8 days 7 hours and 55 minutes, her greatest day's run being 388 miles. She left New York on March 3, and ran back to Queenstown in 8 days 1 hour 25 minutes.

LIFE BOAT SERVICES.—The Duke of Northumberland presided over the annual meeting of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The report stated that during the past twelve months twelve new lifeboats had been, or were about to be, placed on the coasts of the United Kingdom, and that the committee were prepared to station others wherever there was a probability of their being useful. Within the same period the institution's lifeboats had saved 515 persons, besides assisting to rescue nineteen vessels from destruction. For those services, and for saving eighty-five lives by fishing-boats and other means, one gold medal, eight silver medals, eighteen votes of thanks inscribed on vellum, and £2,814 had been granted by the institution.

THE following are the P. and O. steamers now in the Victoria Docks:—Bokhara, Surat, Hydaspes, Baroda, Delhi, and Nubia; the three last named are laid up. The Khedive left Southampton on the 22nd inst. with the China mail; the Thibet will follow with the Bombay mail of the 29th; the Bokhara, the China mail of April 5; the Surat, the Bombay mail of April 12; and the Hydaspes, the China mail of April 19.

THE list of missing ships posted at Lloyd's for the last fortnight includes eight vessels, five of which are given up as lost. There were on board these vessels 138 persons in all. The combined tonnage is 4,000 tons register, and the value of the hulls aggregates fully £40,000, while the cargoes represent fully £30,000. There is thus a total loss to underwriters and owners of £70,000.

CAPTAIN O. C. THOMAS, of the ship Cathaya, writes a letter to the Shipping and Mercantile Gazette, in which he complains of the treatment he met with in Kobe in April last year. He states that he was wrongfully imprisoned by the Consul for refusing to recognise writs issued wrongly against him, and that though he got out again after eleven days he had to pay as much as \$500 for being extricated from his difficulties.

THE Nederland Company's steamship Madura sailed from Southampton on the 20th inst. for Naples, Port Said, Padang, Batavia, &c. with the Dutch mails, 26 passengers, and a full cargo.

THE steamer Loudoun Castle arrived at Shanghai on the 22nd inst., having made the voyage out in 36 days 19 hours steaming time.

TO INVESTORS.

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THE GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.—The ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held in Copenhagen, on Saturday, the 9th April, at Seven P.M., in the Reading-room of the Exchange, when the following business will be submitted:—

1. A report of the business for the past year, and of the condition of the cables and all other property of the Company.

2. Production of the Company's accounts and balance-sheet; resolution to be passed of the amount of dividend to be paid for the past year, and discharge given to the Directors for the same period.

3. Election of two shareholders to act as Auditors for the present year.

4. Election of a member of the Board.
From the 14th April the accounts will be open to the inspection of shareholders, at the Company's offices, and at the same place cards of admission to the meeting may be obtained on shareholders proving their rights as such, in accordance with Article 14 of the statutes.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.
Copenhagen, March 20th, 1877.

IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN SEVEN PER CENT. STERLING LOAN of 1873, for £3,400,000.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRD ANNUAL DRAWING of the BONDS of this Loan, to be paid off on 2nd July next, will take place at the Office of the Oriental Bank Corporation, Threadneedle-street, London, on TUESDAY, the 3rd April next, at Twelve o'clock precisely. The Drawing will be in the presence of a representative of the said Corporation, of a notary public, and of such bondholders as may be pleased to attend. The numbers of the Bonds drawn will be duly advertised for the information of those concerned.

For the Oriental Bank Corporation, Agents for the Loan.
P. CAMPBELL, Chief Manager.
15th March, 1877.

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION.—The Court of Directors do HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Shareholders will be held at the Office of the Corporation in Threadneedle-street, in the City of London, on Thursday, the 19th day of April next, at One o'clock P.M. precisely.

PATRICK CAMPBELL, Chief Manager.

London, March 19, 1877.

N.B.—The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 17th day of April to the 1st day of May inclusive.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the TWENTY-THIRD ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of this Company will be held at the Cannon-street Hotel, in the City of London, on Wednesday, the 18th day of April proximo, at One o'clock P.M. precisely, to receive the accounts, declare a dividend, and for ordinary business.

The Transfer-books will be Closed from Wednesday, the 11th prox., until Wednesday, the 18th prox., both days inclusive.—By order of the Court,

WM. CHAS. MULLINS, Secretary.
Hatton Court, Threadneedle-street, London,
March 21, 1877.

THE ACADEMY,

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JOHN A. SANDILANDS,
COMMISSION AGENT
59 MARK LANE, LONDON, E.C.

THE FOLLOWING

IS AN
EXTRACT FROM A LETTER

dated 15th May, 1872, from an old inhabitant of Horningsham, near Warminster, Wilts:—
"I must also beg to say that your Pills are an excellent medicine for me, and I certainly do enjoy good health, sound sleep, and a good appetite; this is owing to taking your Pills. I am 78 years old.

"Remaining, Gentlemen, yours very respectfully,
To the Proprietors of
NORTON'S CAMOMILE PILLS, London.

THE MISSIONARY SCHOOL,
BLACKHEATH.

The foundation stone was laid in 1856 by the Earl of Shaftesbury. The building was intended to accommodate seventy-five pupils, and was opened in 1857. The cost was £7,000. The Institution became a decided success; the number of boys rapidly rose to seventy-five, and in addition to these there were in attendance as day pupils twenty of the sons of gentlemen of the neighbourhood, it being thought advantageous that the missionaries' children should mix freely with boys born and brought up in England. For some years past there has been a growing difficulty in obtaining a sufficient income to keep the Institution in working order (probably in consequence of a very general impression that one or two of the Missionary Societies supported the School), so that it has been found needful to reduce the number of pupils to fifty. A meeting of subscribers was lately called to consider the expediency of closing the School. The result, however, was a vigorous effort to raise the necessary funds to carry it on efficiently. The appeal was warmly responded to, and £1,000 was obtained. The debt has been paid off, some necessary repairs effected, and the hope is that the Home and School, so valued by our noble band of missionaries, will be raised to a state of efficiency equal to that of its best days.

The Committee is happy to have as the present Head Master the Rev. Edward Waite, M.A., a gentleman of high literary qualifications, while Mrs. Waite is a true mother to the boys. There is an efficient staff of masters assisting Mr. Waite, and every confidence is felt that such an education is being given as will afford entire satisfaction both to the parents and the subscribers. The Institution is wholly unsectarian in its character. The total number of boys received since 1852 is 307. Of these 176 were the sons of missionaries of the London Missionary Society; Baptist, 75; Presbyterian, 23; Wesleyan, Episcopalian, and others, 23.

The School is not intended for merely secular instruction; the spiritual interests of the boys are carefully attended to; they are diligently instructed in the truths of Holy Scripture, their conduct constantly watched over, and the whole of their school life pervaded by Christian influence. The Committee are aware that the character of education in general has been much improved in recent years, and being anxious not to fall behind any similar institution, have tested the progress of the boys periodically by Cambridge University Examiners and otherwise, with very satisfactory results. They desire to stimulate the diligence of the boys by offering for competition at least one scholarship—or by what shall be equivalent to a scholarship. Some of the lads show excellent capacities, which would justify the highest opportunities of culture.

The terms on which pupils were originally received were £15 per annum. The charge is now £18, which, considering the increased cost of provisions, &c., is barely equal to the £15 of former times.

The Committee respectfully and urgently solicit the annual assistance of all friends who are able to help the Institution by their contributions. They cordially thank the liberal contributors to the Special Fund above referred to, and beg again to remind them and other friends of the School that it is entirely dependent upon the payments of the parents, and upon voluntary subscriptions, there being no endowment of any kind, or any other source of income, with the exception of an Annual Pension from the executors of a deceased friend to which, however, there is no legal claim.

Subscriptions received by Dr. Mullens, London Missionary Society; Rev. Joseph Beazley, 13, Paragon, Blackheath; A. H. Bateman, Esq., Devonshire House, Blackheath, S.E.; or by the Agents of this Paper at the ports of the Far East.

R. BROADBENT,
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J. THOMSON, Chairman.

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Incorporated by Royal Charter, August 30, 1861.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, £1,500,000.

RESERVED FUNDS, £500,000.

The Corporation grant Drafts, and negotiate or collect Bills payable at Bombay, Calcutta, Colombo, Foochow, Hong Kong, Kandy, Madras, Mauritius, Melbourne, Point de Galle, Port Elizabeth, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Telicherry, and Yokohama on terms which may be ascertained at their Office. They also issue Circular Notes for the use of Travellers by the Overland Route.

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Reserved fund...	800,000
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Surat ...	3,141	530	April 19	Mediterranean, Aden, Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta, Straits, China, Japan, & Queensland.
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Ditto	Amboto.s.s. (Mikado, s.s. via S. Canal)	100 A1	1903	S.W.I.	April 10
Hong Kong Melbrok	...	A1 15 yr.	870	S.W.I.	With des
Hong Kong Birker	...	100 A1	1008	S.W.I.	Tofollow
Shanghai ... Corea	...	A1 14 yr.	581	S.W.I.	Tofollow

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Glenorchy ...	100 A1	2,788	400	April 13
Glenfalloch ...	100 A1	2,136	275	To follow
Glenroy ...	100 A1	2,131	250	To follow
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Shanghai	Wylo	A1 16 yr.	E.I.D.	With des.
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Abbey Cowper	A 100	609	W.I.	April 5
Hirchvale	A 100	893	W.I.	May 1
Vale of Duon	A 100	669	W.I.	To follow
Vale of Nith	A 100	697	W.I.	"
Abbey Town	A 100	702	W.I.	"
Bencultha	A 100	970	W.I.	"

For Freight or Passage apply to the Owners, JOHN HAY and Co., 28, Brunswick-street, Liverpool, and 11, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

BLUE DIAMOND LINE.
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Ship.	Class.	Tonnage.	Date.
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Edward Barrow	3/3 I.I.	958	With des.
A Clipper Ship	A1	—	To follow
Armantha	3/3 I.I.	915	To follow

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Do.	Pauline	A1 11 yr.	S.W.I.	With des.

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PRINS VAN ORANJE, 8,000 tons, May 1.
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